THE INFINITY WATCH
MARVEL

THE INFINITY WATCH

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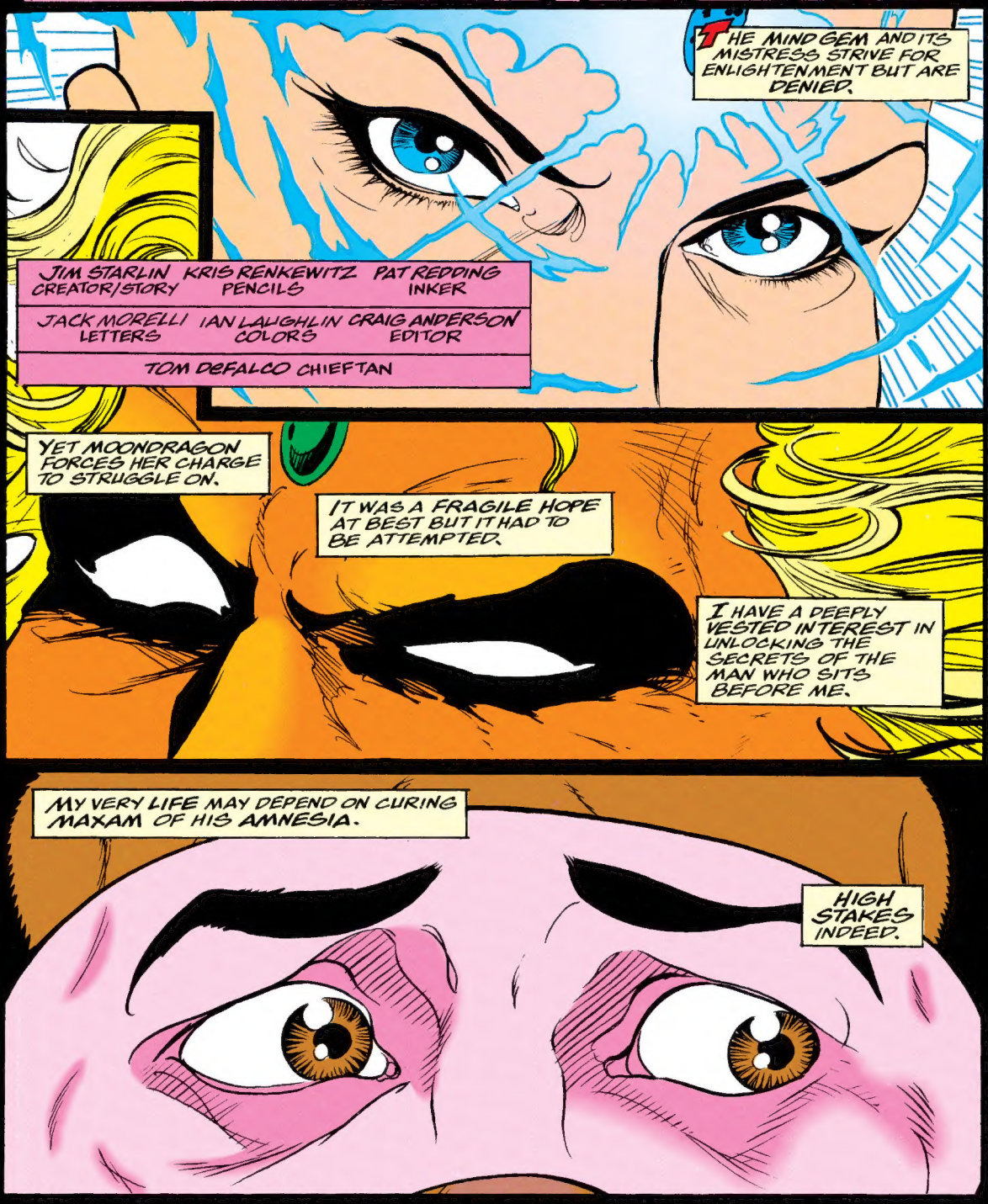
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE WARLOCK CHRONICLES
YEE-HAW! RIDE 'EM COWBOY!
COULD THINGS GET WORSE THAN THIS?!
RANEY '93

AFTER MATH!



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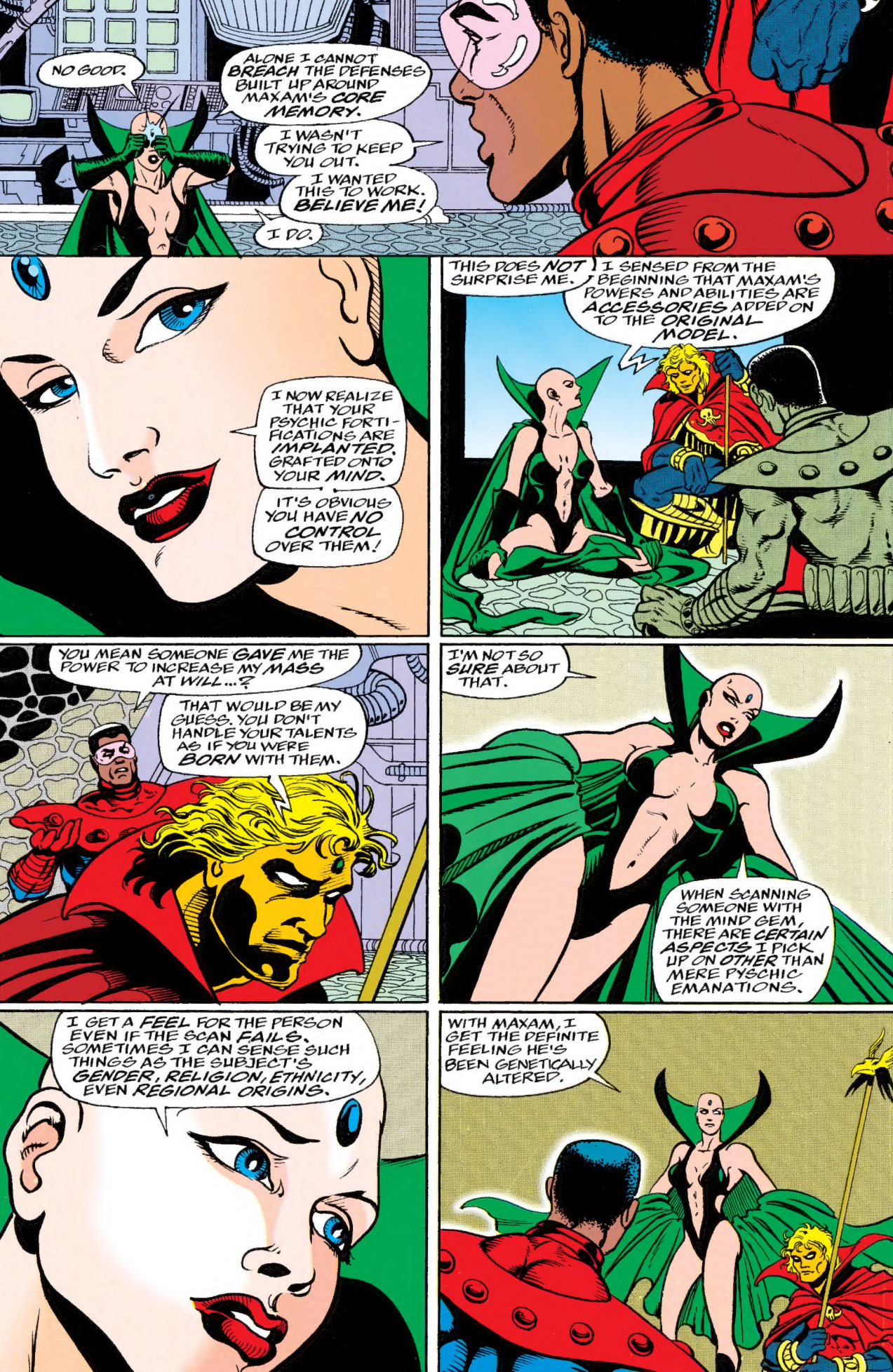
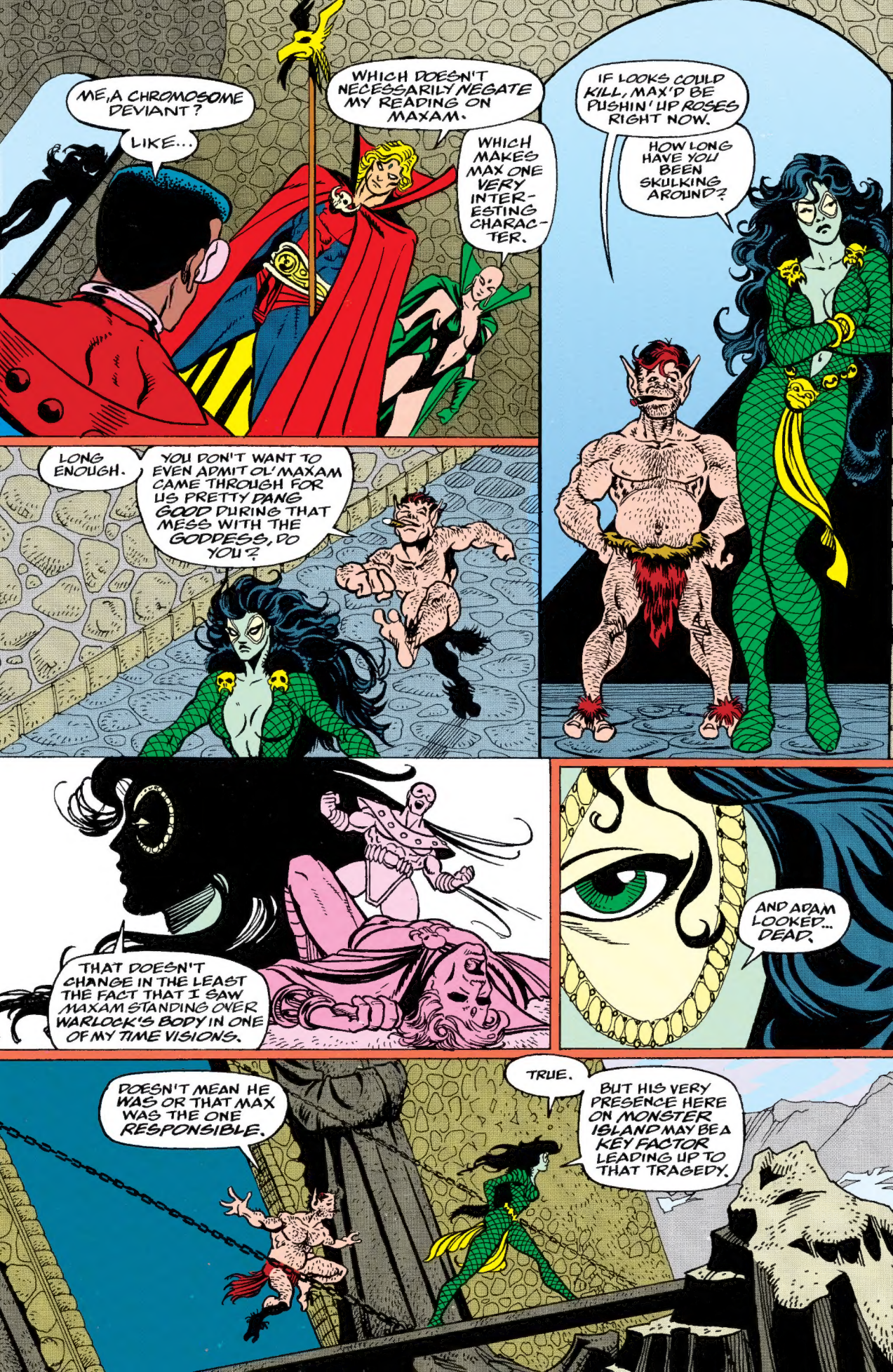
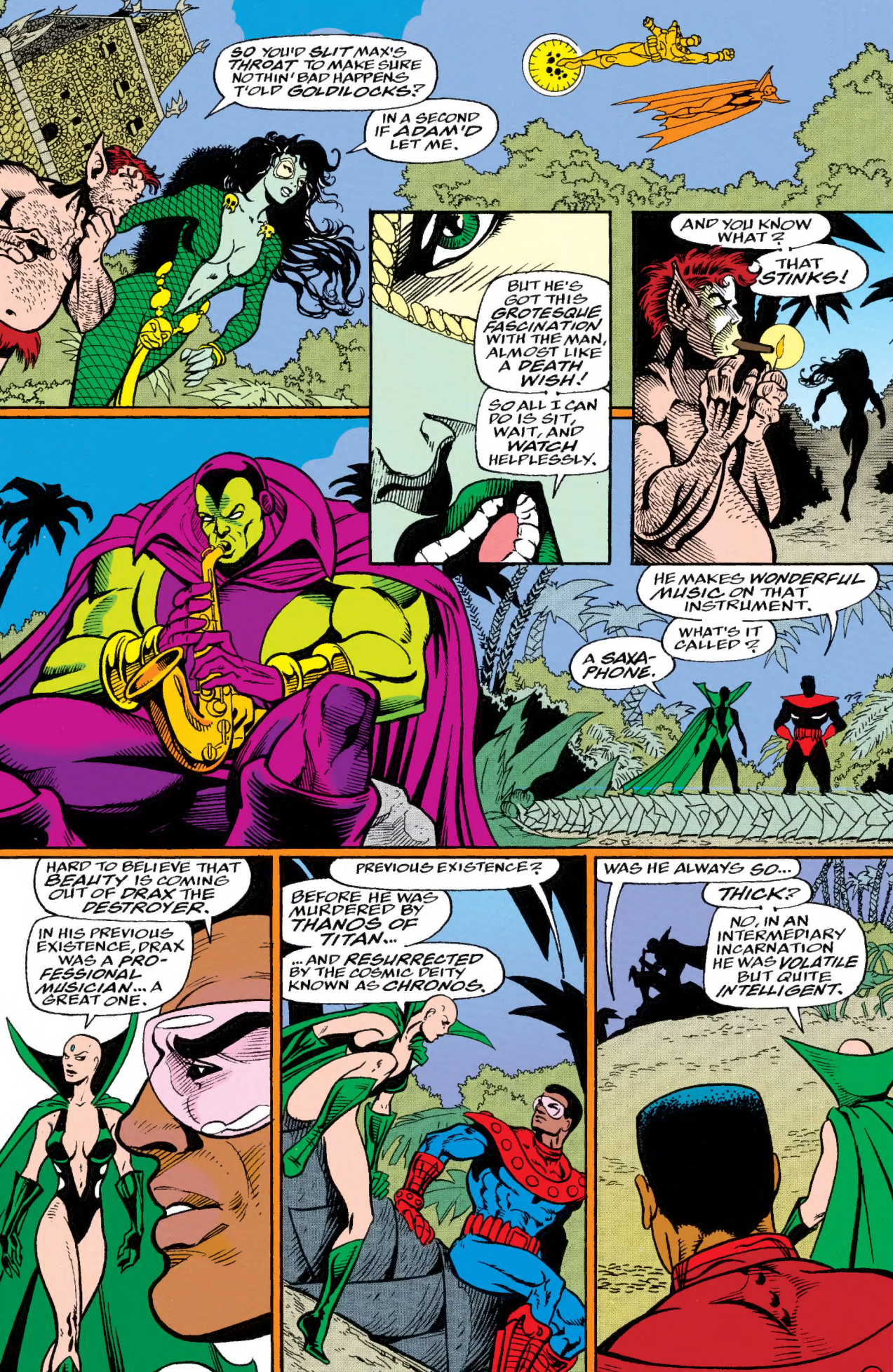
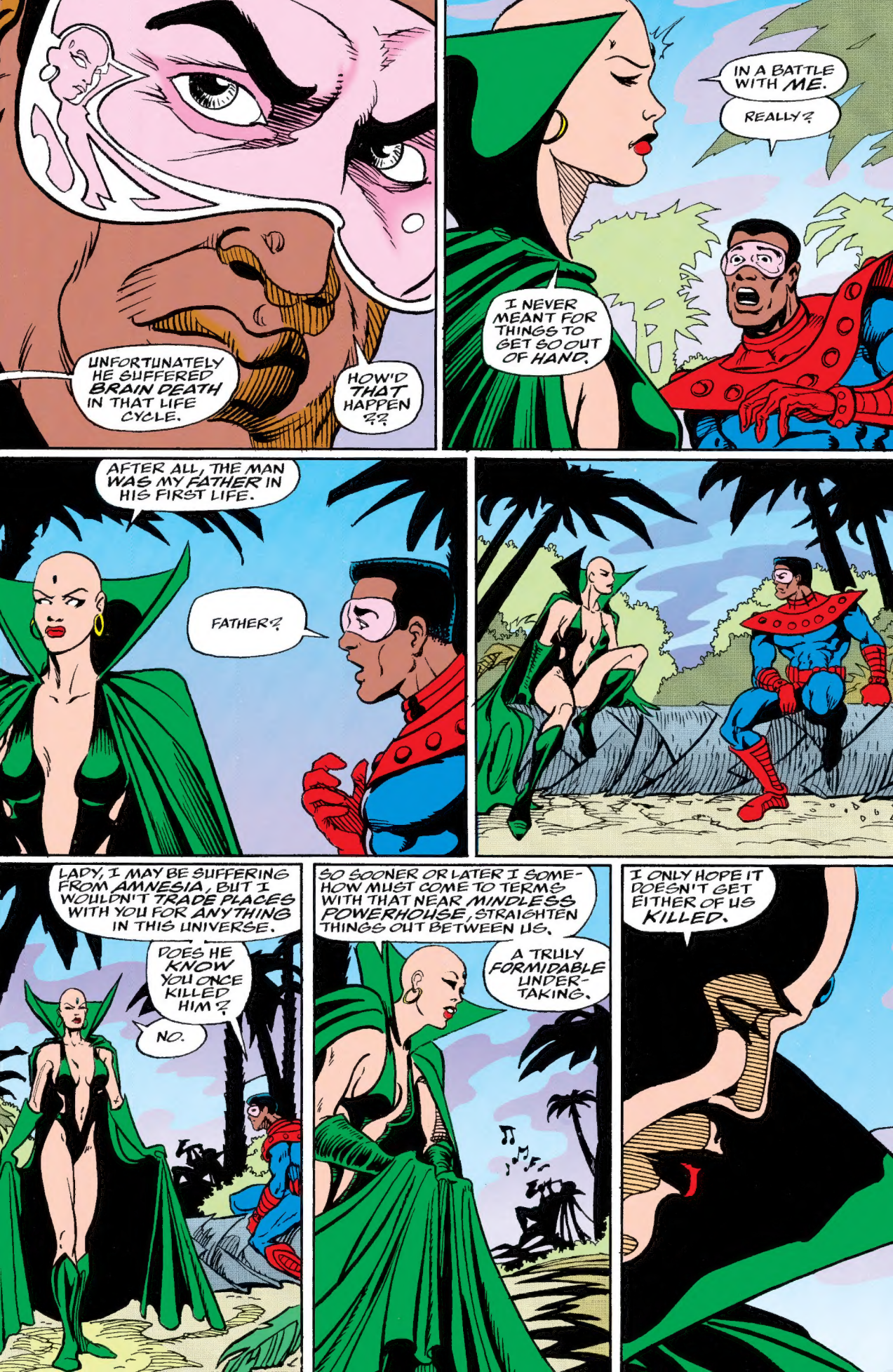
BIGOTRY DWARFS THE SOUL BY SHUTTING OUT THE TRUTH. EDWIN HUBBEL CHAPLIN
TRY TO RELAX INTO IT, MAXAM.
I'M TRYING!
SEE IF YOU CAN GRASP AND ASSIST MY PSYCHIC PROBE.
SOUNDS TEMPTING BUT I JUST CAN'T GET THE HANG OF THIS.
DO YOU TRULY WISH TO REGAIN YOUR MEMORIES?
IF SO, DON'T RESIST ME!
I'M REALLY TRYING NOT TO!


NO GOOD.
ALONE I CANNOT BREACH THE DEFENSES BUILT UP AROUND MAXAM'S CORE MEMORY.
I WASN'T TRYING TO KEEP YOU OUT.
I WANTED THIS TO WORK. BELIEVE ME!
I DO.
I NOW REALIZE THAT YOUR PSYCHIC FORTIFICATIONS ARE IMPLANTED, GRAFTED ONTO YOUR MIND.
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THEM!
THIS DOES NOT SURPRISE ME.
I SENSED FROM THE BEGINNING THAT MAXAM'S POWERS AND ABILITIES ARE ACCESSORIES ADDED ON TO THE ORIGINAL MODEL.
YOU MEAN SOMEONE GAVE ME THE POWER TO INCREASE MY MASS AT WILL...?
THAT WOULD BE MY GUESS. YOU DON'T HANDLE YOUR TALENTS AS IF YOU WERE BORN WITH THEM.
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT.
WHEN SCANNING SOMEONE WITH THE MIND GEM, THERE ARE CERTAIN ASPECTS I PICK UP ON OTHER THAN MERE PYSCHIC EMANATIONS.
I GET A FEEL FOR THE PERSON EVEN IF THE SCAN FAILS. SOMETIMES I CAN SENSE SUCH THINGS AS THE SUBJECT'S GENDER, RELIGION, ETHNICITY, EVEN REGIONAL ORIGINS.
WITH MAXAM, I GET THE DEFINITE FEELING HE'S BEEN GENETICALLY ALTERED.


ME, A CHROMOSOME DEVIANT?
LIKE...
WHICH DOESN'T NECESSARILY NEGATE MY READING ON MAXAM.
WHICH MAKES MAX ONE VERY INTER-ESTING CHARAC-TER.
IF LOOKS COULD KILL, MAX'D BE PUSHIN' UP ROSES RIGHT NOW.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SKULKING AROUND?
LONG ENOUGH.
YOU DON'T WANT TO EVEN ADMIT OL' MAXAM CAME THROUGH FOR US PRETTY DANG GOOD DURING THAT MESS WITH THE GODDESS, DO YOU?
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE IN THE LEAST THE FACT THAT I SAW MAXAM STANDING OVER WARLOCK'S BODY IN ONE OF MY TIME VISIONS.
AND ADAM LOOKED... DEAD.
DOESN'T MEAN HE WAS OR THAT MAX WAS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE.
TRUE.
BUT HIS VERY PRESENCE HERE ON MONSTER ISLAND MAY BE A KEY FACTOR LEADING UP TO THAT TRAGEDY.


SO YOU'D SLIT MAX'S THROAT TO MAKE SURE NOTHIN' BAD HAPPENS T'OLD GOLDILOCKS?
IN A SECOND IF ADAM'D LET ME.
BUT HE'S GOT THIS GROTESQUE FASCINATION WITH THE MAN, ALMOST LIKE A DEATH WISH!
SO ALL I CAN DO IS SIT, WAIT, AND WATCH HELPLESSLY.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
THAT STINKS!
HE MAKES WONDERFUL MUSIC ON THAT INSTRUMENT.
WHAT'S IT CALLED?
A SAXA-PHONE.
HARD TO BELIEVE THAT BEAUTY IS COMING OUT OF DRAX THE DESTROYER.
IN HIS PREVIOUS EXISTENCE, DRAX WAS A PRO-FESSIONAL MUSICIAN... A GREAT ONE.
PREVIOUS EXISTENCE?
BEFORE HE WAS MURDERED BY THANOS OF TITAN...
...AND RESURRECTED BY THE COSMIC DEITY KNOWN AS CHRONOS.
WAS HE ALWAYS SO...
THICK?
NO, IN AN INTERMEDIARY INCARNATION HE WAS VOLATILE BUT QUITE INTELLIGENT.


UNFORTUNATELY HE SUFFERED BRAIN DEATH IN THAT LIFE CYCLE.
HOW'D THAT HAPPEN ??
I NEVER MEANT FOR THINGS TO GET SO OUT OF HAND.
REALLY?
IN A BATTLE WITH ME.
AFTER ALL, THE MAN WAS MY FATHER IN HIS FIRST LIFE.
FATHER?
LADY, I MAY BE SUFFERING FROM AMNESIA, BUT I WOULDN'T TRADE PLACES WITH YOU FOR ANYTHING IN THIS UNIVERSE.
DOES HE KNOW YOU ONCE KILLED HIM?
NO.
SO SOONER OR LATER I SOMEHOW MUST COME TO TERMS WITH THAT NEAR MINDLESS POWERHOUSE, STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT BETWEEN US.
A TRULY FORMIDABLE UNDERTAKING.
I ONLY HOPE IT DOESN'T GET EITHER OF US KILLED.

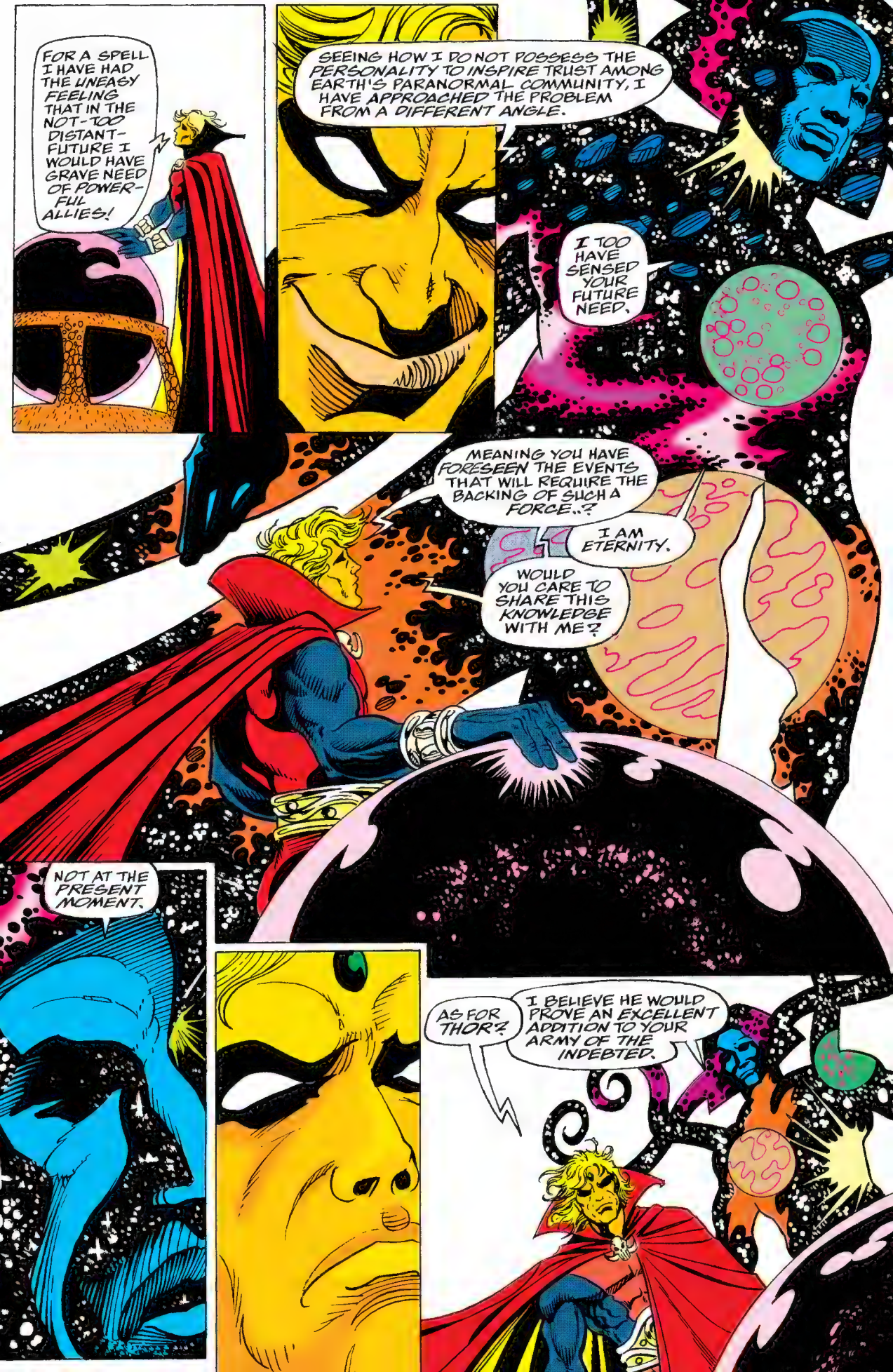
MAXAM!!
WOULD YOU JOIN ME FOR A MOMENT?
THE LAST TIME I FLEW UP HERE I WAS IN A BLIND RAGE AND TRIED TO SLAY YOU.
NOT FEELING THE URGE TODAY, ARE YOU?
NO, BUT I AM EXTREMELY CURIOUS.
MOONDRAGON TOLD ME ABOUT GAMORA'S TIME VISION.
AND YOU WONDER WHY I INVITED YOU TO STAY WITH US ON MONSTER ISLAND?
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THE WISEST MOVE YOU COULD MAKE.
SOME TIME BACK ETERNITY PROPHETIZED THAT I WOULD SOON ENCOUNTER FIVE UNIQUE BEINGS.

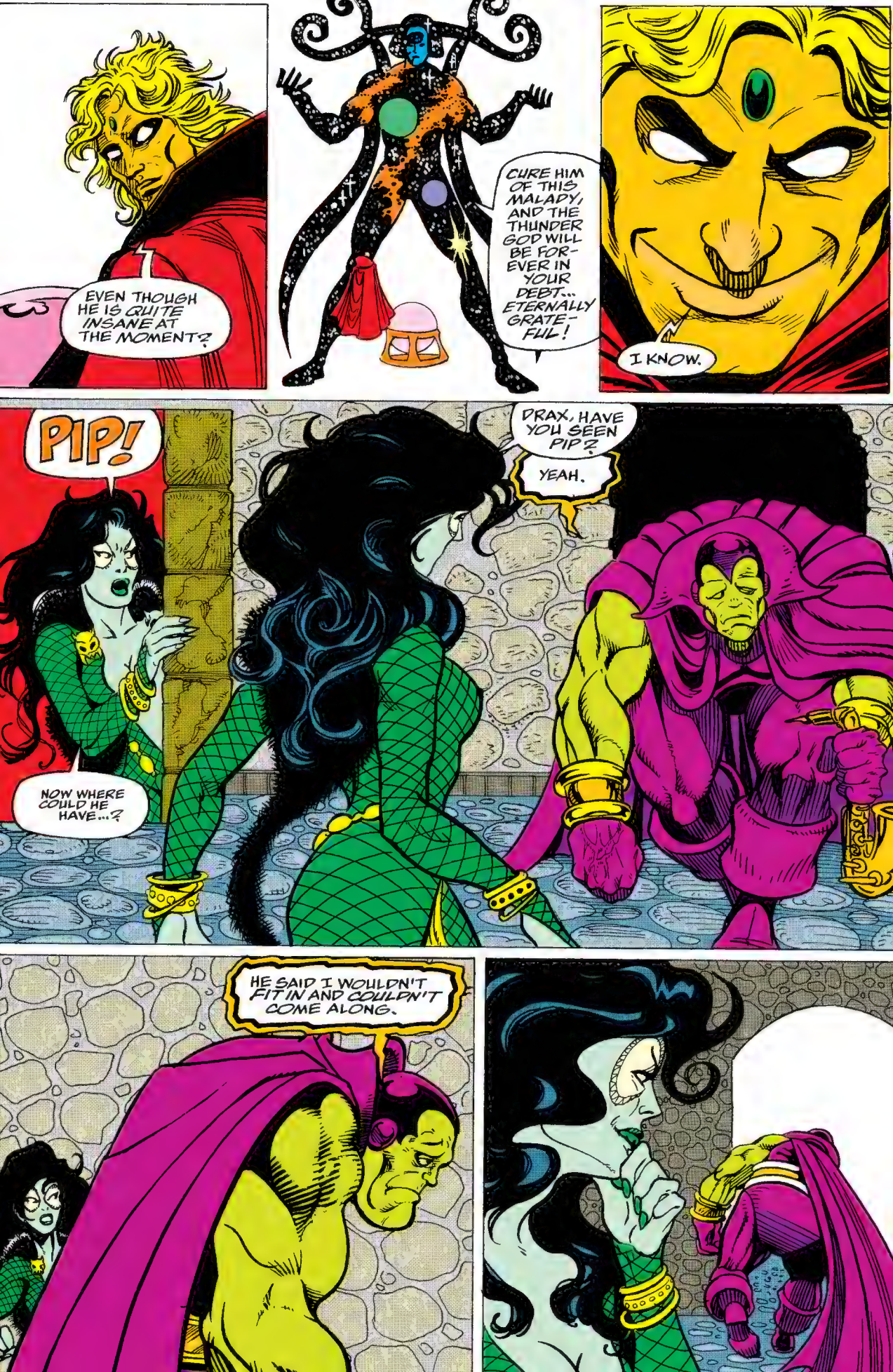
ONE BEING WOULD BE IN NEED OF A SOUL.
ANOTHER WOULD BE ENTANGLED IN A WEB OF PAST AND FUTURE WOES.
ONE WOULD TOUCH MY HEART.
STILL ANOTHER WOULD BE ONE WHOSE TRUST I WOULD BETRAY.
THE LAST WOULD BE THE TERRIBLE GOOD WITHIN ME.
EACH IN HIS OWN WAY WOULD POSE A THREAT TO THE UNIVERSE.
EACH I WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH IN MY OWN FASHION.
I AM CERTAIN THE GODDESS WAS MY TERRIBLE GOOD.
I BELIEVE I HAVE ALREADY ENCOUNTERED A BEING IN NEED OF A SOUL. ONE COUNT ABYSS.
AND YOU THINK I MIGHT BE ONE OF THE THREE REMAINING BEINGS ON YOUR LIST?
WHICH IS WHY I'VE INVITED YOU TO STAY AS MY GUEST.
TERRIFIC.
FIRST I FIND OUT I'M A MUTANT, AND NOW MAYBE A THREAT TO THE UNIVERSE.
PERHAPS GAMORA'S RIGHT ABOUT HOW I SHOULD BE DEALT WITH.
ONLY TIME WILL TELL.
NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

YOU KNOW, HOT-SHOT...
...I'M BEGINNIN' TO THINK YOU'RE ON THE LEVEL ABOUT NOT REMEMBERIN' YOUR PAST.
ABOUT TIME.
YOU KNOW YOU WERE A BIG HELP TO ME IN DEFEATING THE GODDESS EVEN THOUGH IT WASN'T REALLY YOUR FIGHT.
THE INFINITY WATCH NEEDED HELP.
THE WATCH IS THE CLOSEST THING TO A FAMILY OR ANYTHING ELSE I'VE GOT.
SAY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHECK OUT HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES?
MEANING?
THERE'S THIS BAR IN NEW YORK CITY...

THERE'S SOMETHING NOT RIGHT.
NOW I SEE.

INTERESTING.
VERY INTERESTING.
AND A GRAVE PERIL.
THOR?
WHO ELSE?
A DANGER TO WHAT?
A GOOD PORTION OF ALL THAT IS INFINITY AND MYSELF.
ETERNITY, DO YOU SEEK TO UNFAIRLY EXPLOIT ME?
AS YOU HAVE USED ME IN THE PAST?
IT IS THE NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP...
BESIDES, I AM NOT SUGGESTING ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT ALREADY CONSIDERING.
I HAVE WITNESSED HOW YOU ARE ARRANGING TO PUT MYRIAD BEINGS OF VAST POWER, SUCH AS THE SILVER SURFER, INTO YOUR DEBT.


FOR A SPELL I HAVE HAD THE UNEASY FEELING THAT IN THE NOT-TOO DISTANT-FUTURE I WOULD HAVE GRAVE NEED OF POWERFUL ALLIES!
SEEING HOW I DO NOT POSSESS THE PERSONALITY TO INSPIRE TRUST AMONG EARTH'S PARANORMAL COMMUNITY, I HAVE APPROACHED THE PROBLEM FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE.
I TOO HAVE SENSED YOUR FUTURE NEED.
MEANING YOU HAVE FORESEEN THE EVENTS THAT WILL REQUIRE THE BACKING OF SUCH A FORCE..?
I AM ETERNITY.
WOULD YOU CARE TO SHARE THIS KNOWLEDGE WITH ME?
NOT AT THE PRESENT MOMENT.
AS FOR THOR?
I BELIEVE HE WOULD PROVE AN EXCELLENT ADDITION TO YOUR ARMY OF THE INDEBTED.


EVEN THOUGH HE IS QUITE INSANE AT THE MOMENT?
CURE HIM OF THIS MALADY, AND THE THUNDER GOD WILL BE FOR-EVER IN YOUR DEBT... ETERNALLY GRATE-FUL!
I KNOW.
PIP!
NOW WHERE COULD HE HAVE...?
DRAX, HAVE YOU SEEN PIP?
YEAH.
HE SAID I WOULDN'T FIT IN AND COULDN'T COME ALONG.

HEATHER, HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHERE I MIGHT FIND PIP?
HE AND MAX TOOK A LITTLE TRIP TOGETHER.
WHERE?
NEW YORK CITY TO PARTY A BIT.
AND YOU LET THEM GO?!?
I DON'T REMEMBER SIGNING ON AS THIS GROUP'S BABY SITTER.
GREAT, JUST GREAT!
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE THOSE TWO ARE GETTING INTO.
IN A SEEDIER SECTION OF MANHATTAN...
WELCOME TO LAREDO'S MAX.
ISN'T IT GREAT?!
Laredo
Rudy
Marlboro

ESPECIALLY THE MUSIC!
I JUST LOVE COUNTRY AND WESTERN!
IT TOUCHES SOMETHING DEEP IN MY GUT.
AND PROBABLY RUINING YOUR HEARING IN THE BARGAIN.
WHY IS IT SO LOUD?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT THESE OUTFITS WOULD ALLOW US TO MINGLE WITH THIS CROWD UNNOTICED?
LEVIS AND A STETSON ARE THE PERFECT DISGUISE.
THEN WHY ARE TWO GENTS GLARING AT US?
MAYBE THEY'RE ADMIRING YOUR SHIRT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'RE HERE TO ENJOY OURSELVES. BARKEEP! TWO COLD ONES!
DO YOU THINK THEY SUSPECT WE'RE PARANORMALS? NOT THEIR OWN KIND?
WHY SHOULD THEY? IGNORE THEM AND HAVE SOME FUN.
HEY, BOY!
THAT MIGHT BE EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

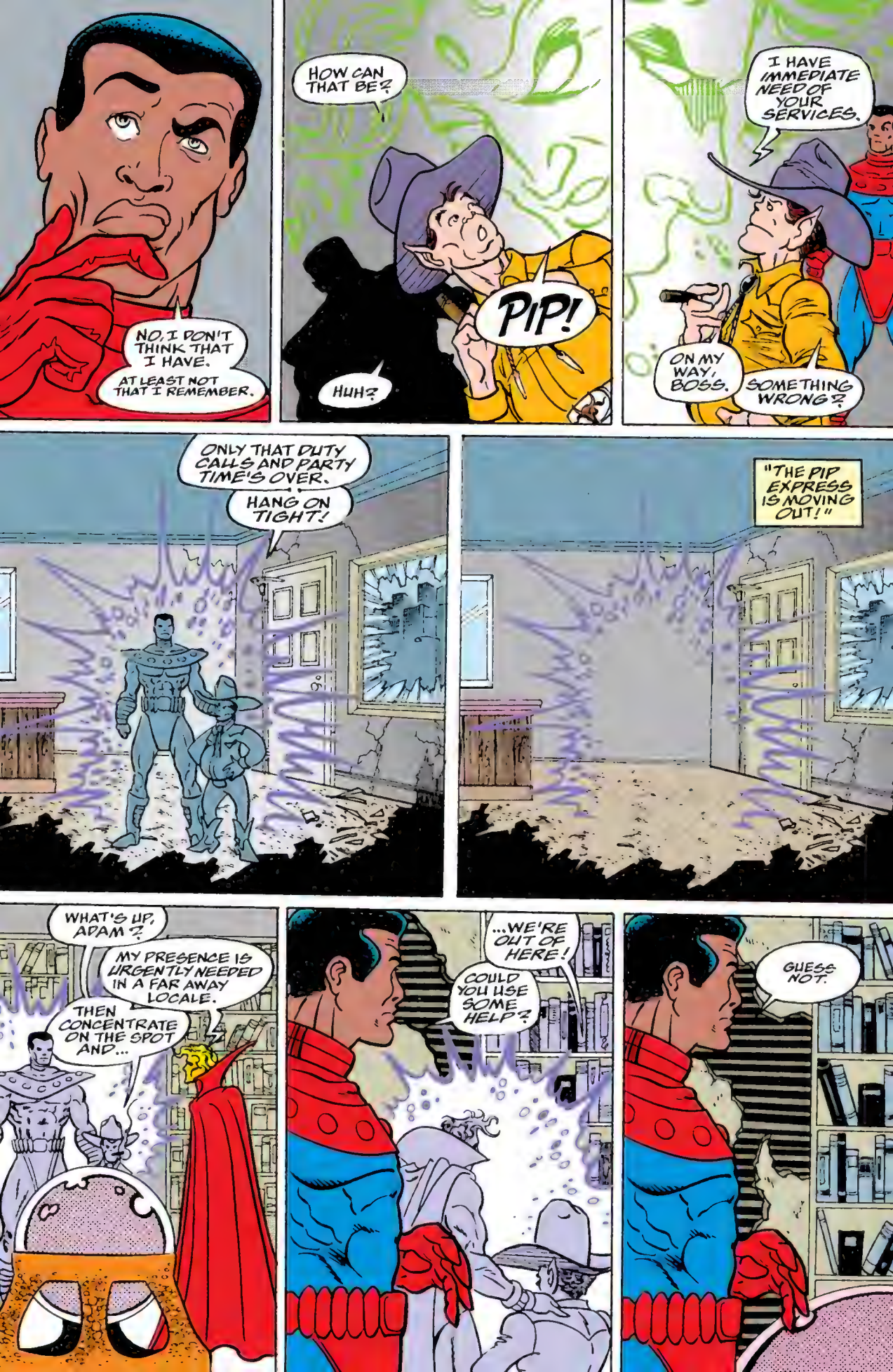
BULLS
COWS
I'M NOT EXACTLY A BOY ANYMORE.
WATCH YOUR LIP, SHINE!
I KNEW COMING HERE WAS A MISTAKE.
THEY KNOW PIP.
I THINK THEY'RE MORE INTERESTED IN YOUR SKIN TONE THAN IN WHAT TALENTS YOU HAVE HIDDEN, MAX.
BUTT OUT, SHORTY!
MY SKIN?
LET'S SEE IF I HAVE THIS RIGHT.
YOU'RE ANGRY WITH ME BECAUSE YOU'RE LIGHT-SKINNED AND I'M DARK?
YEAH, WE DON'T LIKE YOUR KIND COMIN' INTA OUR BAR!
THEN I'LL JUST LEAVE AND WE'LL CALL IT EVEN.
THIS ONE'S A REGULAR ARSENIO HALL, AIN'T HE?

I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE GOING TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
HOLD HIM, YA DANG FOOLS!

HOLY MOSES! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS ONE!
HE'S SOME KIND OF A SUPER TYPE!
STILL ONLY ONE'A HIM AND BAR FULL OF US!

GET HIM!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!

THAT LOOKED VERY SATISFYING.
COULD'VE SAVED A COUPLE FOR ME.
NEXT TIME.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THESE GUYS.
WHAT ABOUT THEM?
THEY ACTUALLY MEANT TO INJURE OR KILL ME BECAUSE MY SKIN TONE DIDN'T MATCH THEIRS!
YOU ACT SURPRISED! WHERE YA BEEN?
OOPS. FORGET I ASKED...
THEY CALL IT BIGOTRY. IT'S REAL BIG AMONG THIS MUDBALL'S STUPIDER CITIZENS.
YOU MUST HAVE COME ACROSS IT BEFORE THIS.


NO, I DON'T THINK THAT I HAVE.
AT LEAST NOT THAT I REMEMBER.
HOW CAN THAT BE?
PIP!
HUH?
I HAVE IMMEDIATE NEED OF YOUR SERVICES.
ON MY WAY, BOSS.
SOMETHING WRONG?
ONLY THAT DUTY CALLS AND PARTY TIME'S OVER.
HANG ON TIGHT!
"THE PIP EXPRESS IS MOVING OUT!"
WHAT'S UP, ADAM?
MY PRESENCE IS URGENTLY NEEDED IN A FAR AWAY LOCALE.
THEN CONCENTRATE ON THE SPOT AND...
...WE'RE OUT OF HERE!
COULD YOU USE SOME HELP?
GUESS NOT.

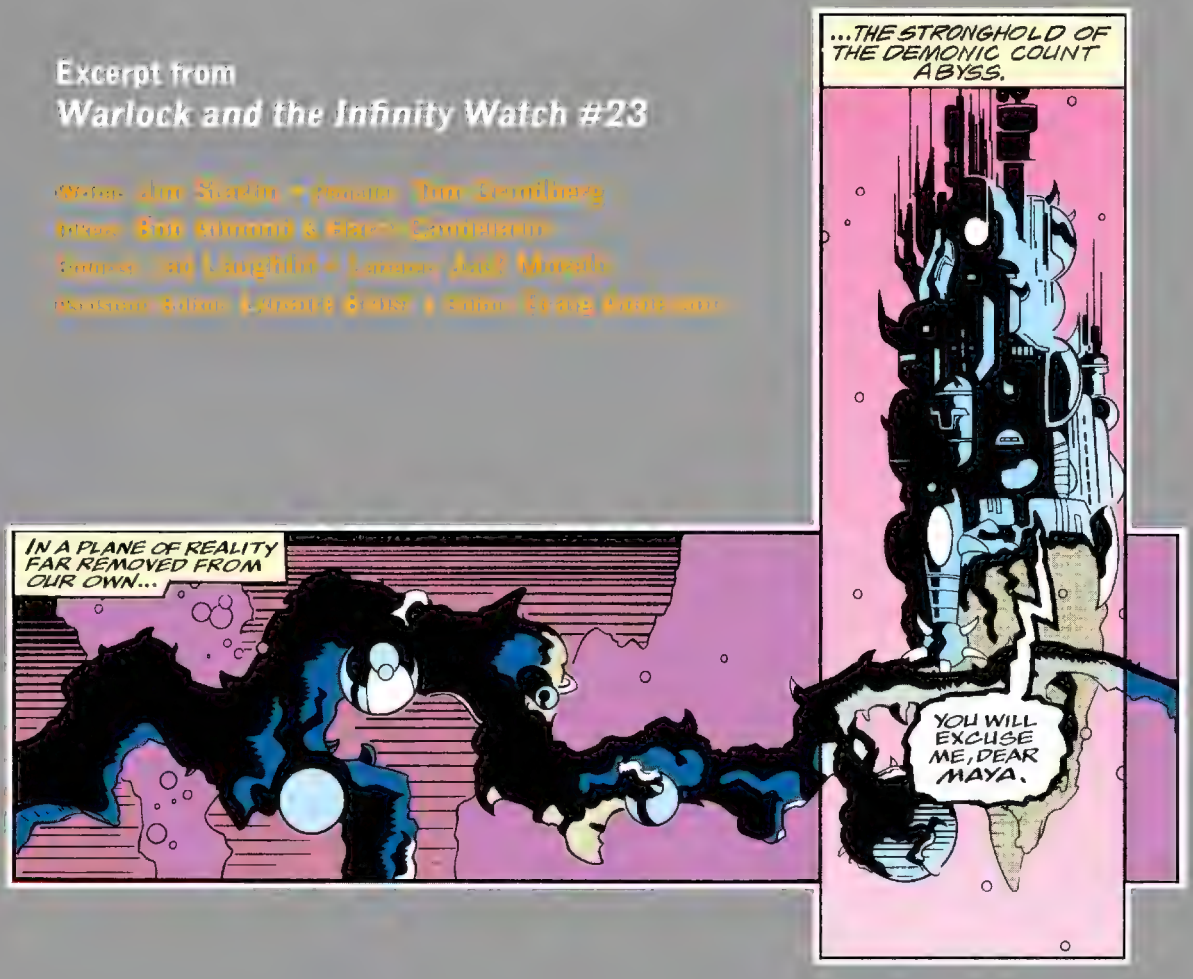
THOR OF ASGARD, I COME HERE TO REASON WITH YOU AND AID YOU IN YOUR TROUBLES!
BE GONE, INTERLOPER OR FACE THE THUNDER GOD'S WRATH!
I WILL NOT BE SWAYED BY YOUR FALSE WORDS!
THE SILVER SURFER MUST DIE!
THOR! WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE HIM.
WHY CAN'T WE EVER TAKE ON ANY CREAM PUFFS?
TO BE CONTINUED IN WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #23 ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!

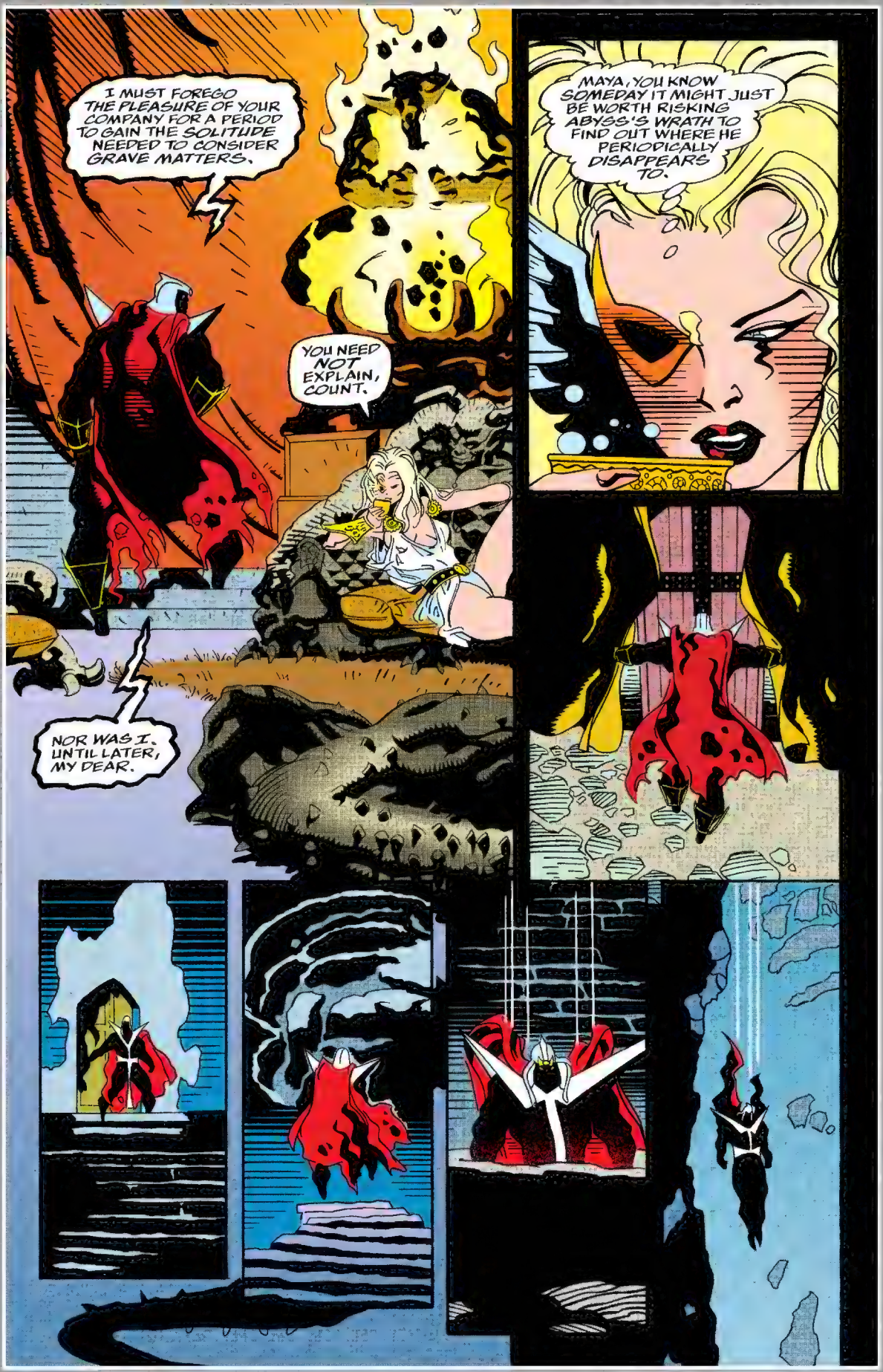
THOR, having descended into insanity, swore to wreak a violent "vengeance" on both Asgard and Earth. Sif, Beta Ray Bill, the Silver Surfer and the Infinity Watch all tried to calm Thor, but the mad god attacked and defeated each in turn. During a battle with Drax, Thor punched the Destroyer in the stomach, causing him to cough up the Power Gem. Thor quickly claimed the gem and headed for Asgard, intent on using its might to destroy his homeland.

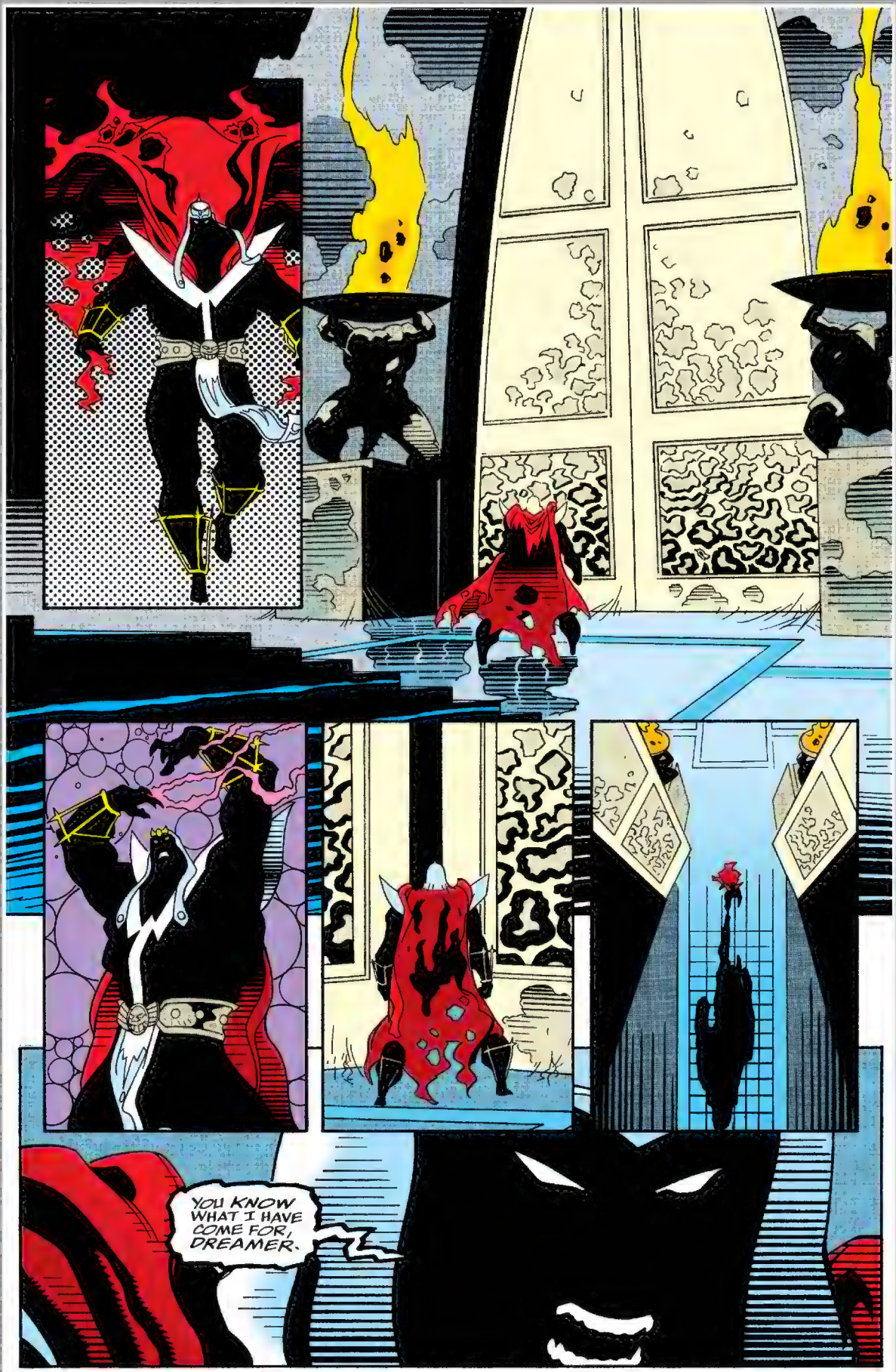
Warlock and the Surfer recruited Doctor Strange and followed Thor to Asgard, but they were once again defeated by the insane thunder god. In desperation, Pip teleported Thor to Thanos, the secret holder of the reality gem. Thanos and Thor fought brutally until the titan finally captured Thor, immobilizing him in a block of pure energy. The heroes took Thor to his father Odin, who journeyed deep into the thunder god's psyche and, after much effort, ultimately cured him of his madness. A grateful Thor returned the Power Gem to Drax, and the heroes departed Asgard.

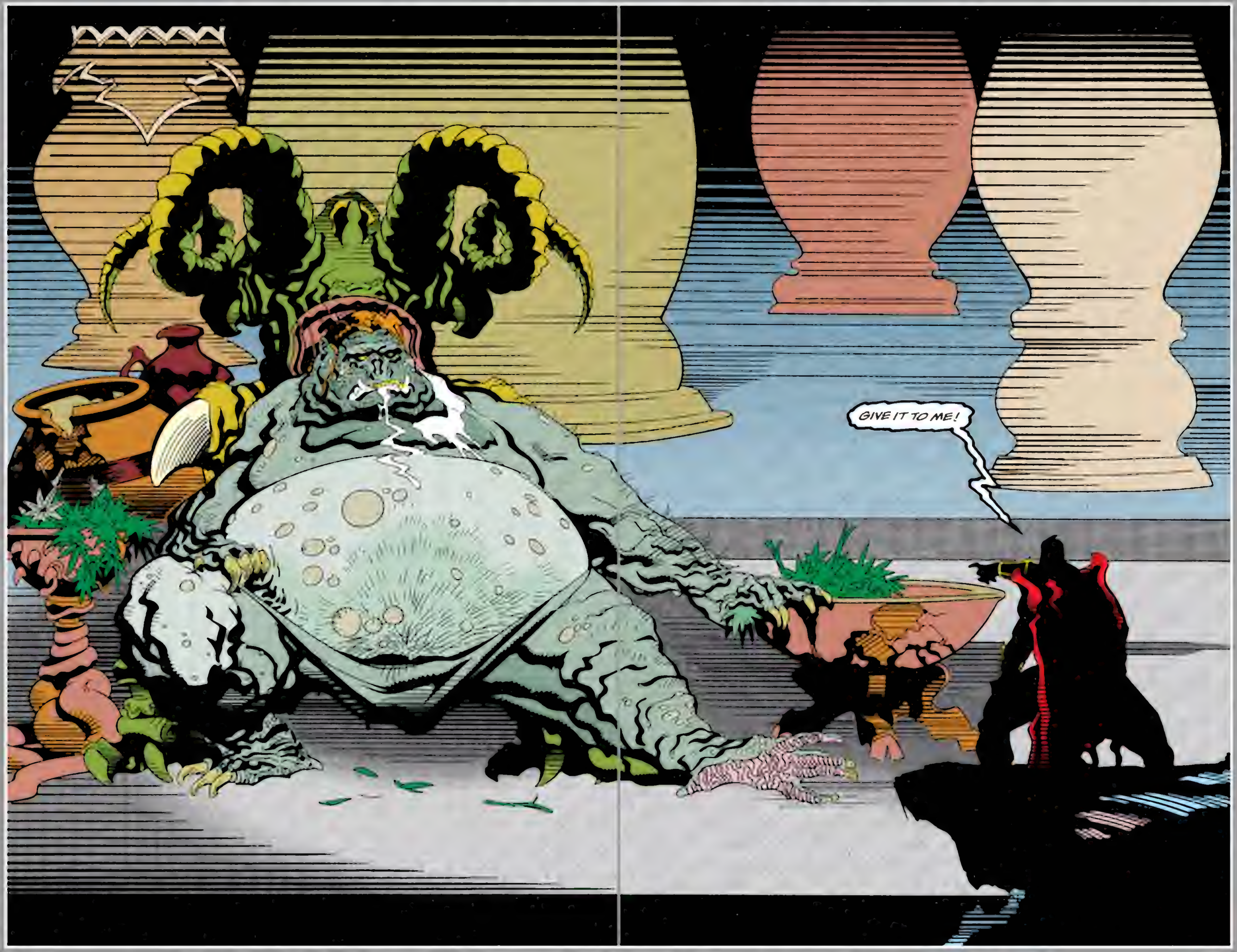
Meanwhile, dimensions away, the mysterious Count Abyss continued scheming against Adam Warlock...

Excerpt from
Warlock and the Infinity Watch #23



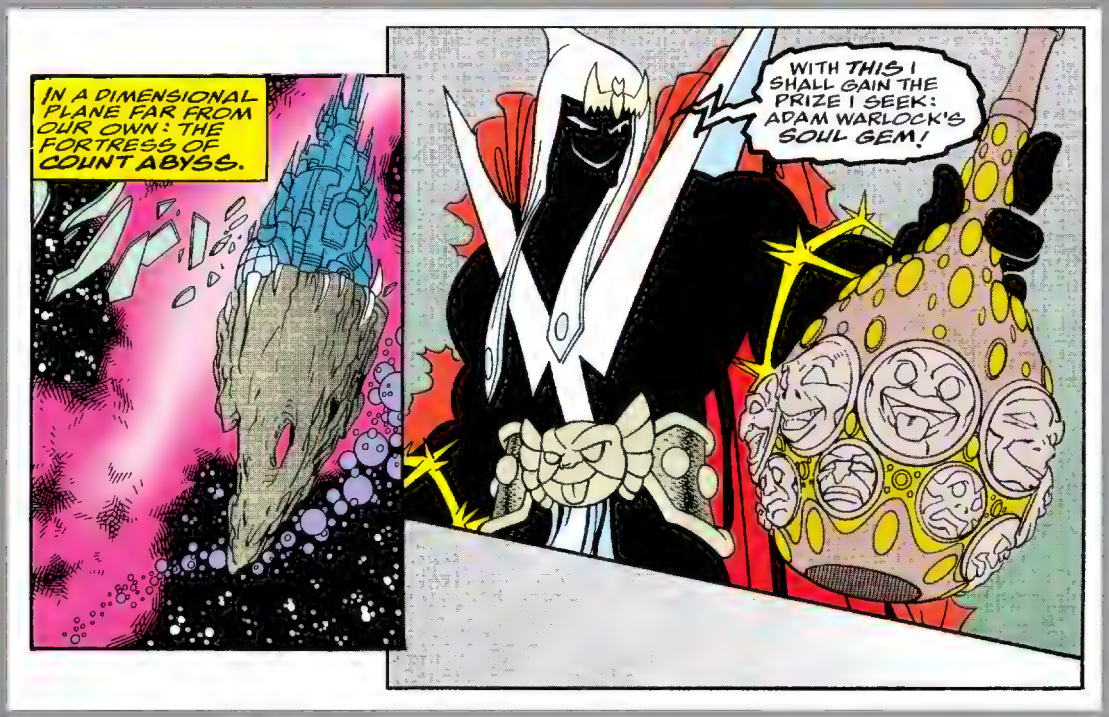

I MUST FOREGO THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY FOR A PERIOD TO GAIN THE SOLITUDE NEEDED TO CONSIDER GRAVE MATTERS.
YOU NEED NOT EXPLAIN, COUNT.
NOR WAS I. UNTIL LATER, MY DEAR.
MAYA, YOU KNOW SOMEDAY IT MIGHT JUST BE WORTH RISKING ABYSS'S WRATH TO FIND OUT WHERE HE PERIODICALLY DISAPPEARS TO.

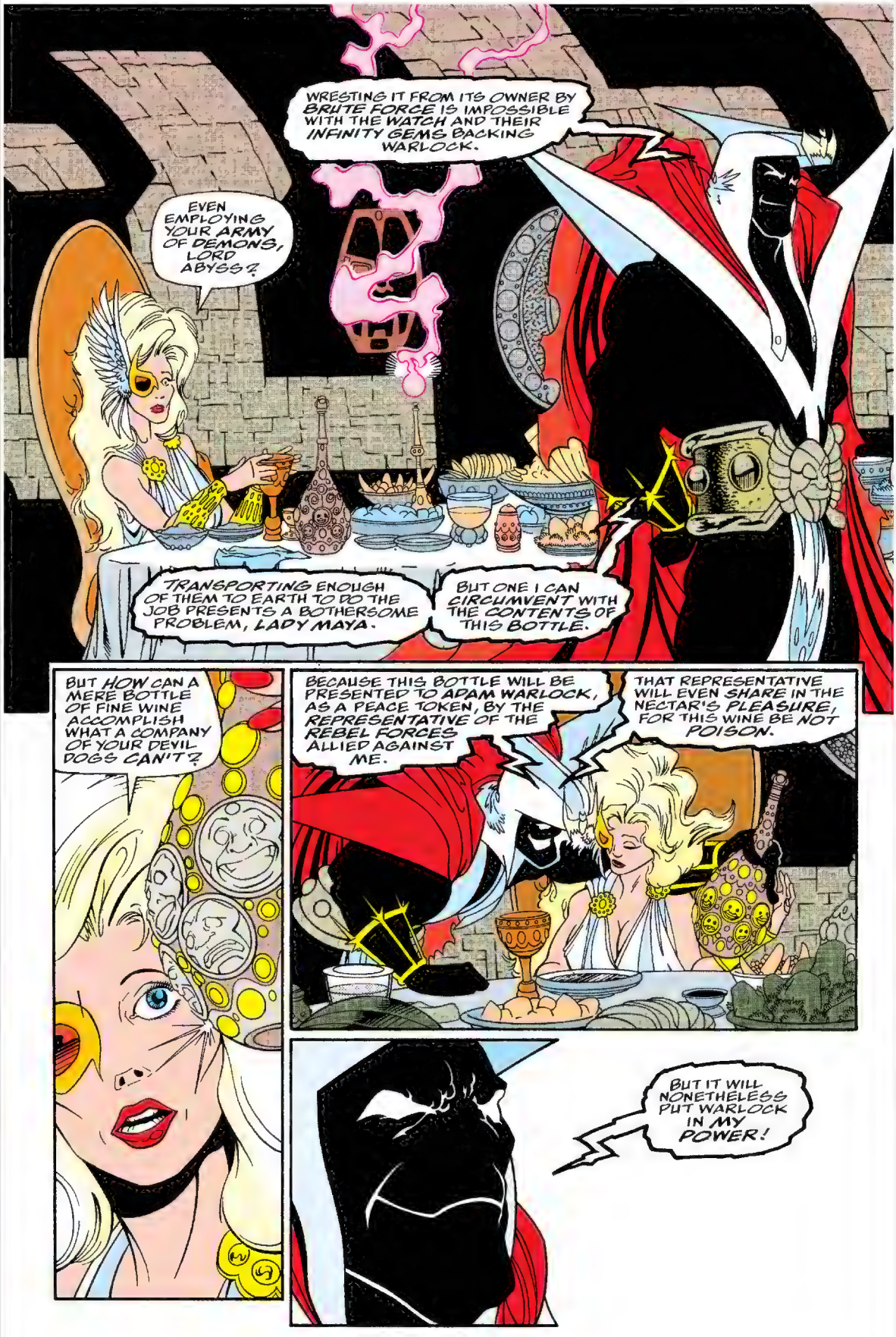

YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE COME FOR, DREAMER.

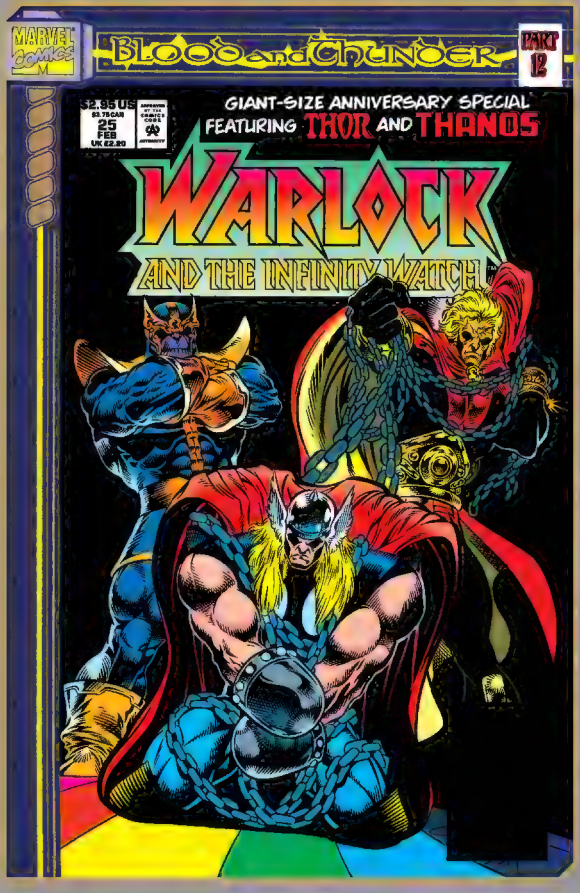

GIVE IT TO ME!

Excerpt from

Warlock and the Infinity Watch #25




WRESTING IT FROM ITS OWNER BY BRUTE FORCE IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH THE WATCH AND THEIR INFINITY GEMS BACKING WARLOCK.
EVEN EMPLOYING YOUR ARMY OF DEMONS, LORD ABYSS?
TRANSPORTING ENOUGH OF THEM TO EARTH TO DO THE JOB PRESENTS A BOTHERSOME PROBLEM, LADY MAYA.
BUT ONE I CAN CIRCUMVENT WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS BOTTLE.
BUT HOW CAN A MERE BOTTLE OF FINE WINE ACCOMPLISH WHAT A COMPANY OF YOUR DEVIL DOGS CAN'T?
BECAUSE THIS BOTTLE WILL BE PRESENTED TO ADAM WARLOCK, AS A PEACE TOKEN, BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REBEL FORCES ALLIED AGAINST ME.
THAT REPRESENTATIVE WILL EVEN SHARE IN THE NECTAR'S PLEASURE, FOR THIS WINE BE NOT POISON.
BUT IT WILL NONETHELESS PUT WARLOCK IN MY POWER!



WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #23-25 COVERS BY [redacted]

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AND THE INFINITY WATCH
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BEGINNING...
THE BATTLE FOR
MONSTER ISLAND!
GRINDBERG '94

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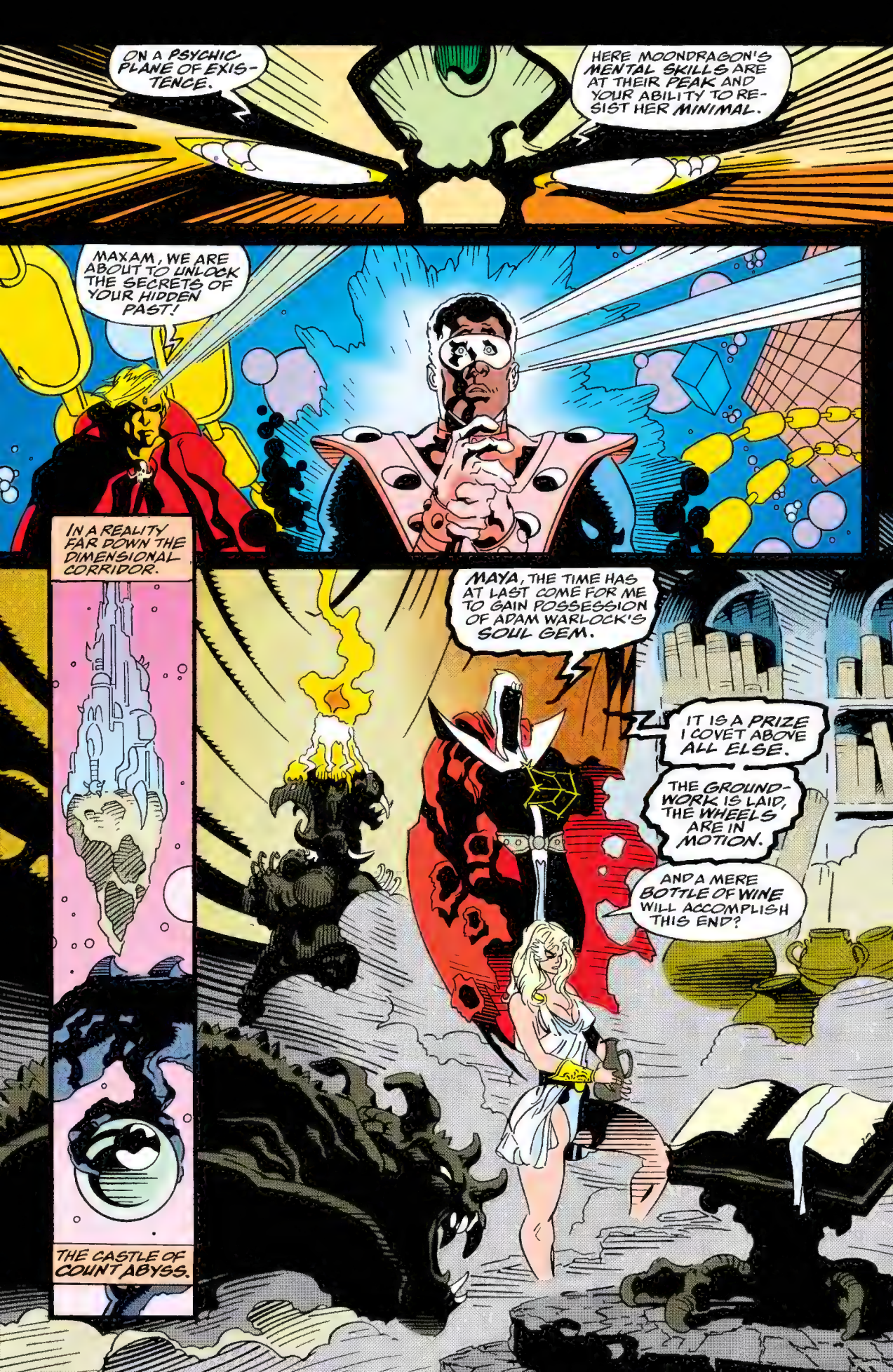
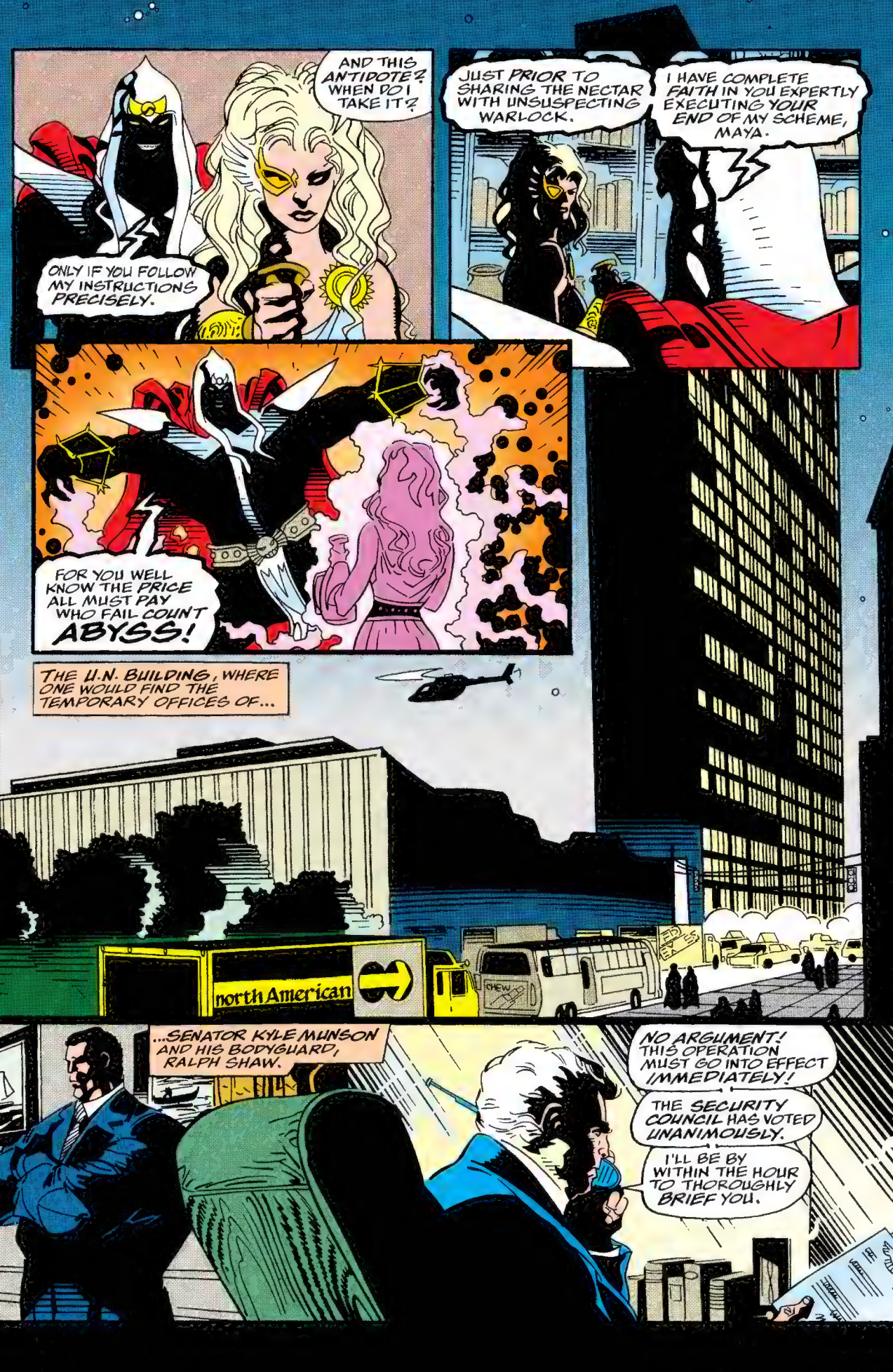
THAT AND THE FACT THAT I DID ATTACK YOU THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU.
WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHY I WAS DOING IT.
THE MOTIVATION FOR THAT ACT IS OBVIOUSLY LOCKED WITHIN YOUR FORGOTTEN PAST.
MY AMNESIA IS THE REASON FOR THIS LATE NIGHT STROLL ??
YES.
YOUR LOST MEMORY IS A LIABILITY THE WATCH CAN ILL AFFORD.
IT IS A SITUATION THAT MUST BE REMEDIED, EVEN IF IT PROVES A PAINFUL CURE.
PAINFUL, HUH? I CAN'T WAIT. WHAT'S THE PLAN?
MOONDRAGON HAD NO SUCCESS TRYING TO PROBE MY HIDDEN THOUGHTS WITH HER MIND GEM.
YOU THINK YOUR SOUL GEM MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE?
ALONE, NO. THE SPIRIT HAS NO TRUE MEMORY.
BUT, USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MIND GEM AND DRAX'S POWER GEM, IT MIGHT REAP A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST.
I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHERE THE PAINFUL PART OF THIS OPERATION MAY COME IN.
MOONLADY, HOW COME MAX IS SOMETIMES BIG, SOMETIMES LIL' FELLOW?
GAS.
AND THE NAME'S MOONDRAGON.

HAVE YOU EXPLAINED TO DRAX WHAT WE INTEND TO DO?
AS BEST AS I COULD.
DRAX SOMETIMES HAS GAS, TOO.
HUH?
DRAX, WILL YOU STAND RIGHT HERE?
SURE, MR. ADAM.
WHERE'D YOU FOLKS FINALLY DECIDE TO HIDE DRAX'S POWER GEM?
IT'S EMBEDDED IN HIS BELT SO HE WON'T LOSE IT AGAIN WITHOUT LOSING HIS PANTS.
HAVE A SEAT ON THIS BOULDER, MAX.
ARE WE GOING TO START PLAYING THE GAME, NOW?
GAME?
DON'T ASK.
ARE YOU READY, MAXAM?
SURE.
WHAT HAVE I GOT TO LOSE?
ONLY YOUR AMNESIA.

STAND PERFECTLY STILL, MAX.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
WHERE ARE WE?!

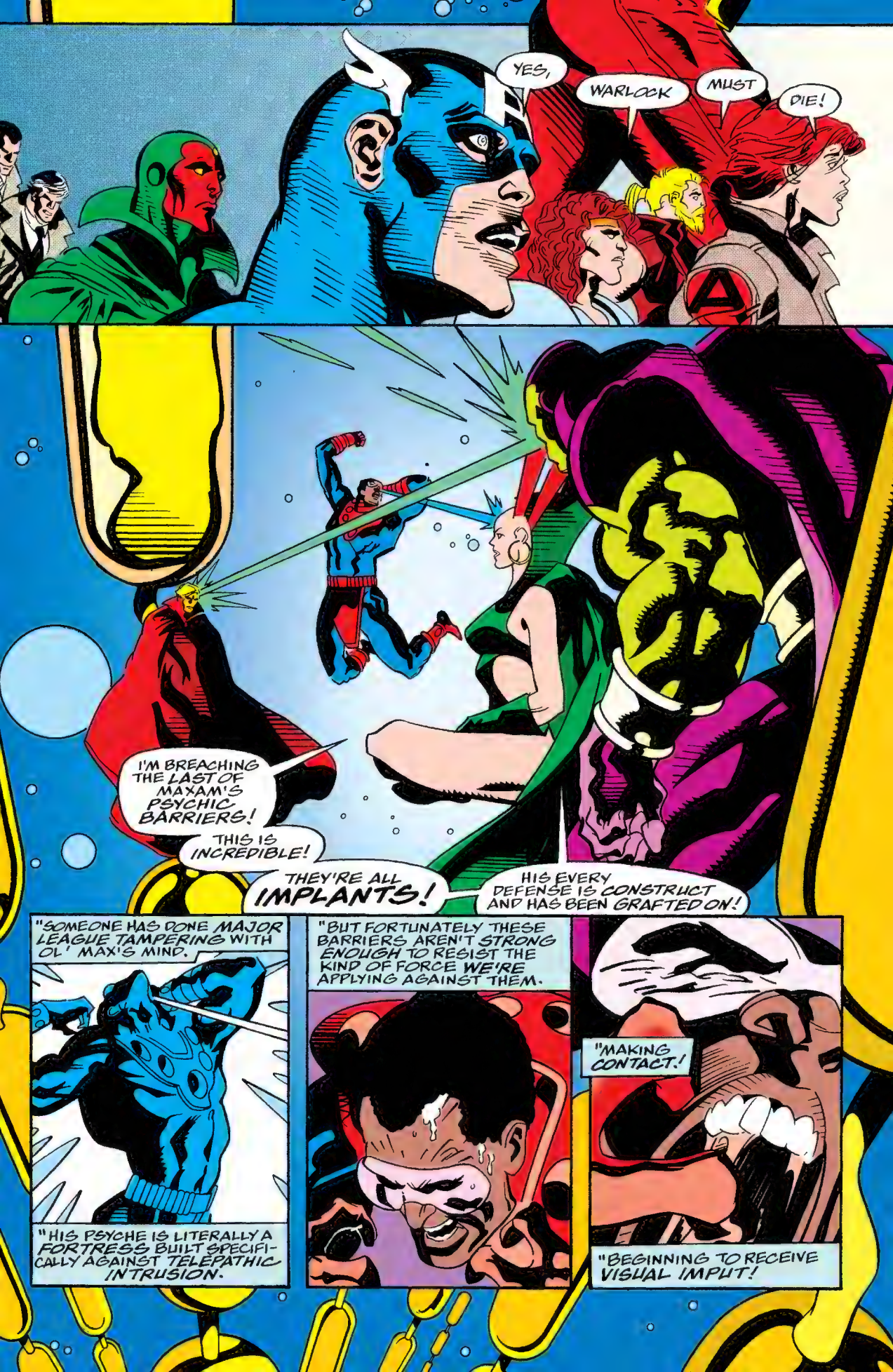

ON A PSYCHIC PLANE OF EXISTENCE.
HERE MOONDRAGON'S MENTAL SKILLS ARE AT THEIR PEAK AND YOUR ABILITY TO RESIST HER MINIMAL.
MAXAM, WE ARE ABOUT TO UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF YOUR HIDDEN PAST!
IN A REALITY FAR DOWN THE DIMENSIONAL CORRIDOR.
THE CASTLE OF COUNT ABYSS.
MAYA, THE TIME HAS AT LAST COME FOR ME TO GAIN POSSESSION OF ADAM WARLOCK'S SOUL GEM.
IT IS A PRIZE I COVET ABOVE ALL ELSE.
THE GROUNDWORK IS LAID, THE WHEELS ARE IN MOTION.
AND A MERE BOTTLE OF WINE WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS END?


AND THIS ANTIDOTE? WHEN DO I TAKE IT?
ONLY IF YOU FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS PRECISELY.
JUST PRIOR TO SHARING THE NECTAR WITH UNSUSPECTING WARLOCK.
I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN YOU EXPERTLY EXECUTING YOUR END OF MY SCHEME, MAYA.
FOR YOU WELL KNOW THE PRICE ALL MUST PAY WHO FAIL COUNT ABYSS!
THE U.N. BUILDING, WHERE ONE WOULD FIND THE TEMPORARY OFFICES OF...
north American
...SENATOR KYLE MUNSON AND HIS BODYGUARD, RALPH SHAW.
NO ARGUMENT! THIS OPERATION MUST GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY!
THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.
I'LL BE BY WITHIN THE HOUR TO THOROUGHLY BRIEF YOU.

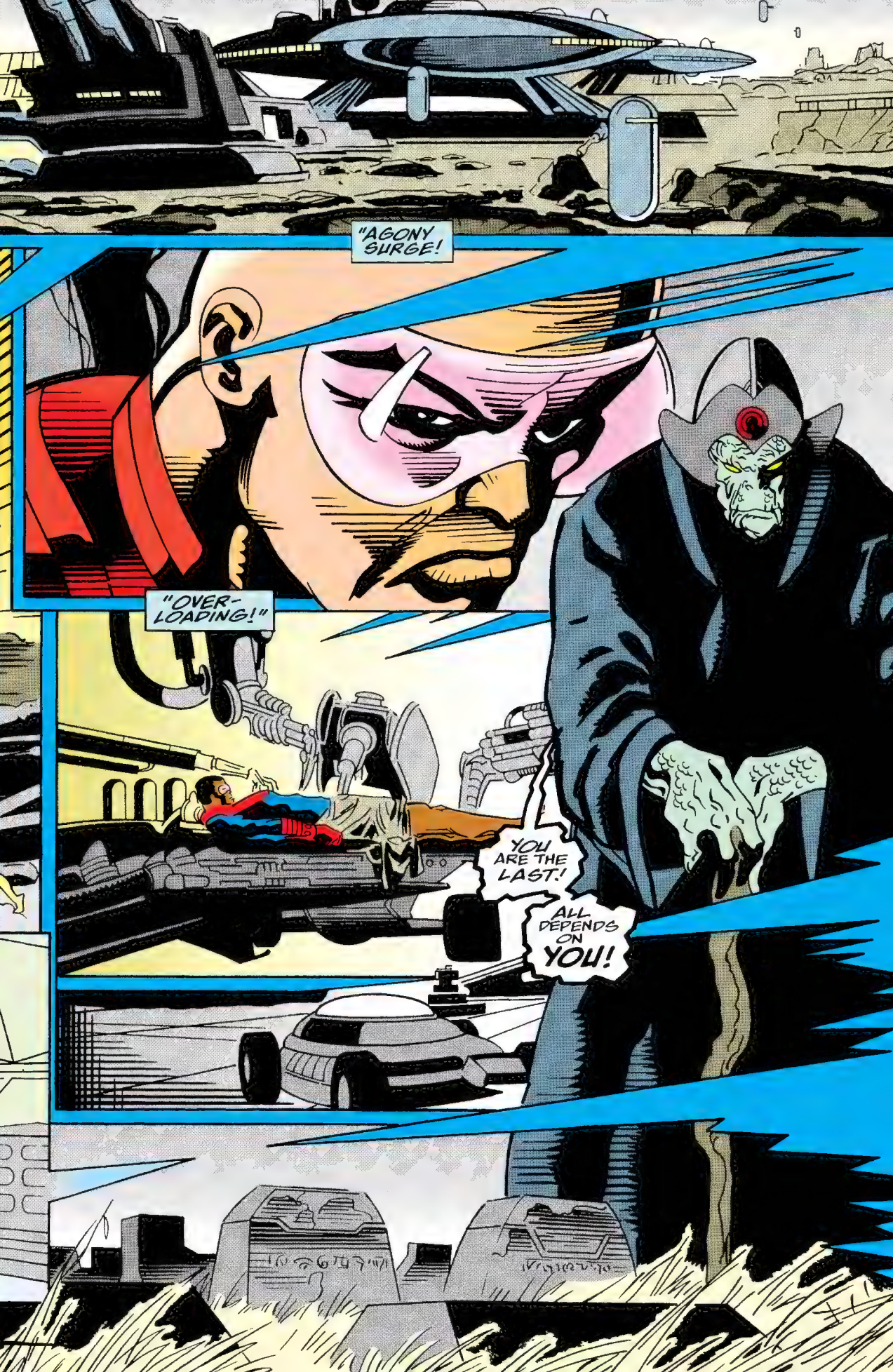
EVERYTHING'S ARRANGED.
MONSTER ISLE WILL BE RECEIVING UNEXPECTED VISITORS COME FIRST LIGHT.
BY THE TIME THE SUN REACHES ITS ZENITH OVER THAT ROCK, ADAM WARLOCK WILL EITHER BE DEAD...
...OR BRANDED THE MOST DESPICABLE VILLAIN ON THIS PLANET.
EITHER WAY, I WIN!
I AM PROCEEDING ON TO THE DEEPER LEVELS OF MAXAM'S SUBCONSCIOUS.
ENCOUNTERING MASSIVE RESISTANCE BUT NOTHING OUR COMBINED MIGHT CAN'T EASILY OVERCOME.
ABOUT TO ENTER LONG-TERM MEMORY TERRITORY.
MAXAM, HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!

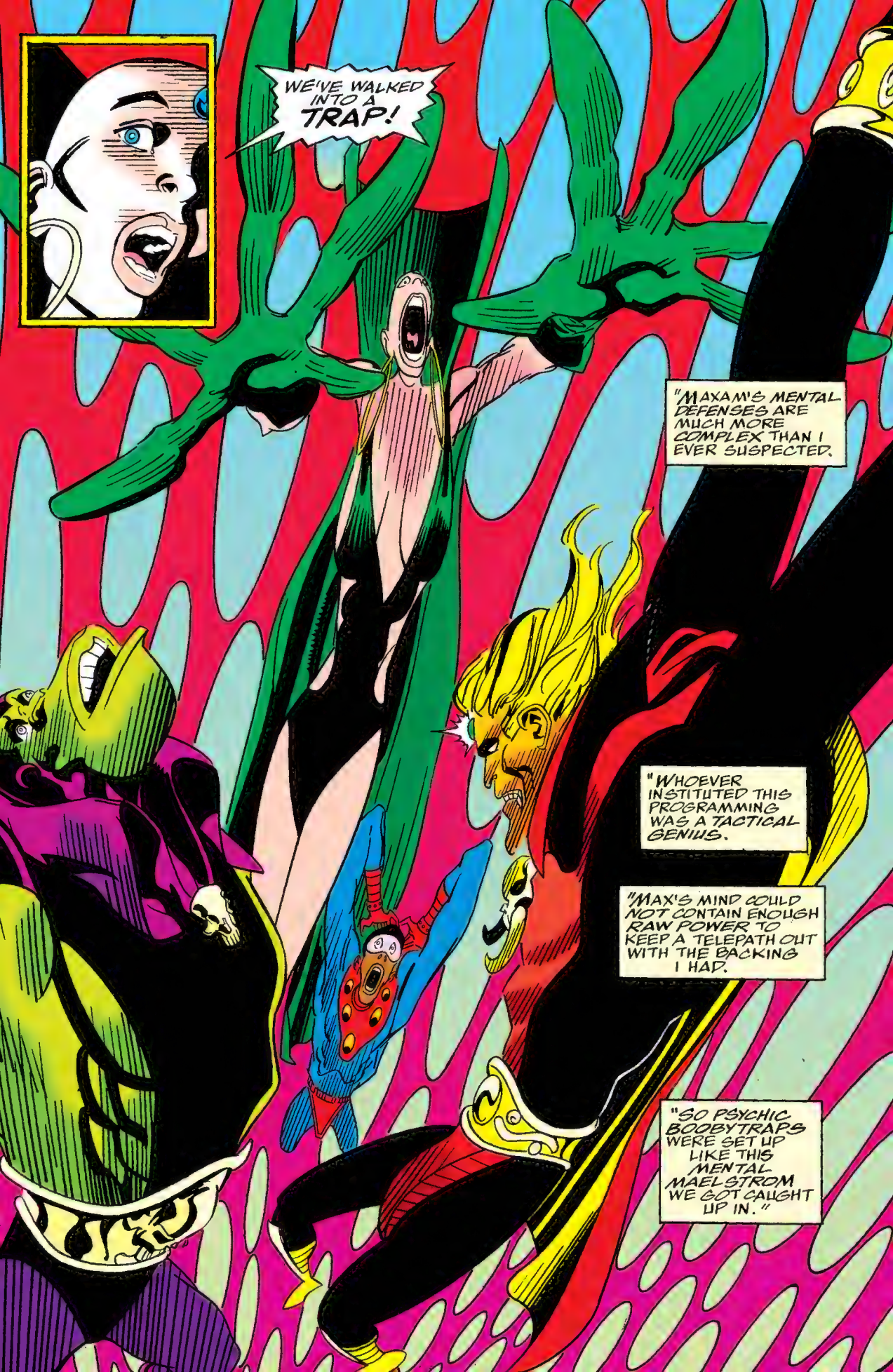
AAARRRGGHHH
HERE COME YOUR HIRED GUNS.
NOT HIRED GUNS, RALPH.
THEN YOUR HEROES?
NO.
MY EXECUTIONERS.
I TAKE IT ALL PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE?
YES. BUT NONE OF US LIKES THIS SET-UP.
WE HAVE TO TALK.

THE AVENGERS ARE SANCTIONED BY THE U.N. AND HAVE ON OCCASION WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE ORGANIZATION...
...BUT WE'RE NOT ITS ENFORCERS.
I'D NOT SEND MERE BULLY BOYS TO SLAY ANYONE AS WILY AS ADAM WARLOCK.
KILL WARLOCK ?!?
I THOUGHT WE WERE ONLY SUPPOSED TO EVICT HIM FROM MONSTER ISLE?
WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?
YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, AVENGERS, THAT WARLOCK IS NOT AS HE APPEARS!
IN REALITY, HE IS THE DEVIL INCARNATE.
YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT A CONSUMMATE SCHEMER WARLOCK IS.
BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY HE HAS TERRIBLE PLANS FOR EARTH. ALL OUR LIVES ARE IN PERIL.
BLOOD WILL RUN LIKE RIVERS IF HE IS NOT STOPPED!
ADAM WARLOCK MUST DIE!

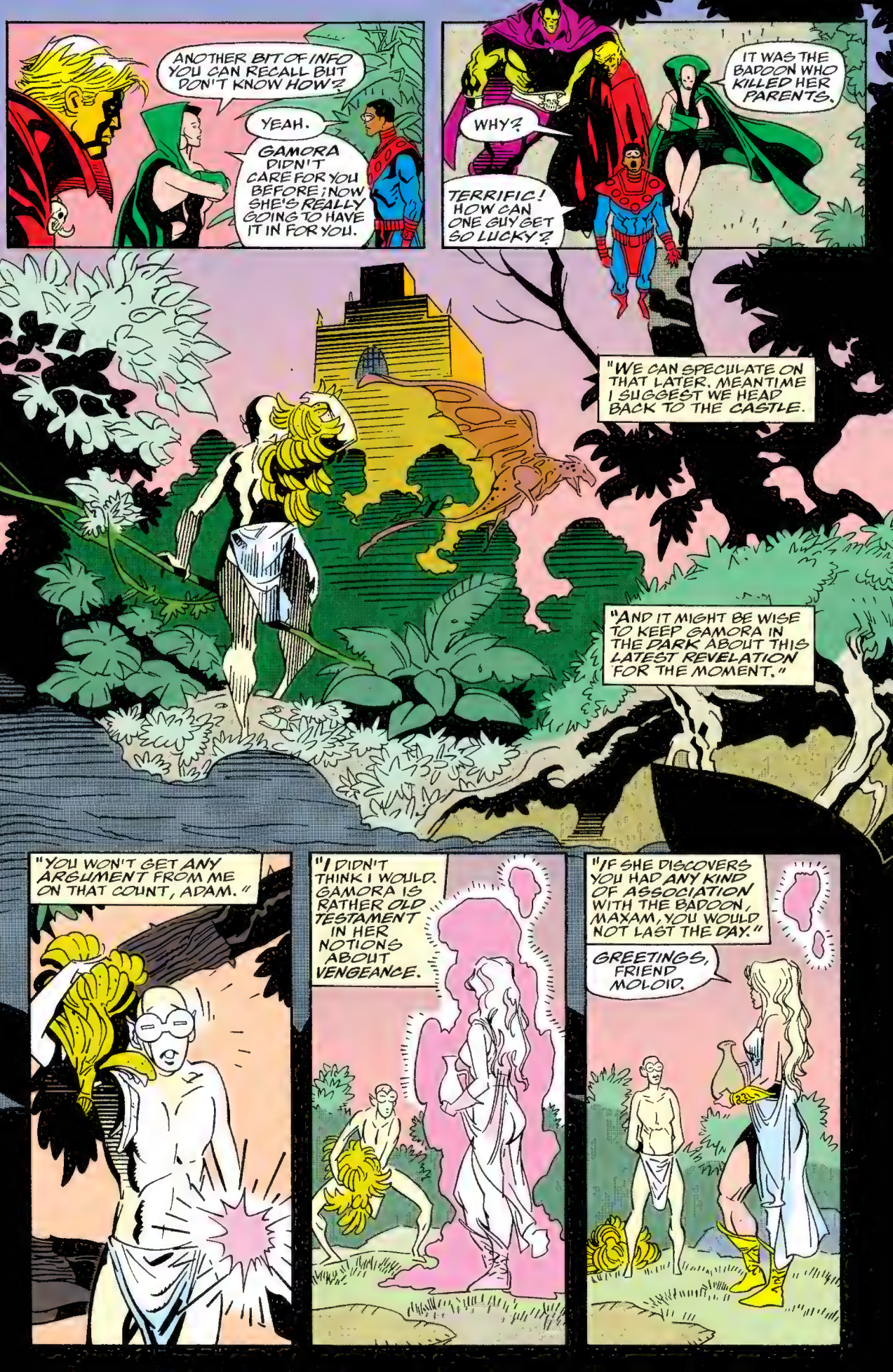

YES,
WARLOCK
MUST
DIE!
I'M BREACHING THE LAST OF MAXAM'S PSYCHIC BARRIERS!
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
THEY'RE ALL IMPLANTS!
HIS EVERY DEFENSE IS CONSTRUCT AND HAS BEEN GRAFTED ON!
"SOMEONE HAS DONE MAJOR LEAGUE TAMPERING WITH OL' MAX'S MIND.
"HIS PSYCHE IS LITERALLY A FORTRESS BUILT SPECIFICALLY AGAINST TELEPATHIC INTRUSION.
"BUT FORTUNATELY THESE BARRIERS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO RESIST THE KIND OF FORCE WE'RE APPLYING AGAINST THEM.
"MAKING CONTACT!
"BEGINNING TO RECEIVE VISUAL IMPUT!

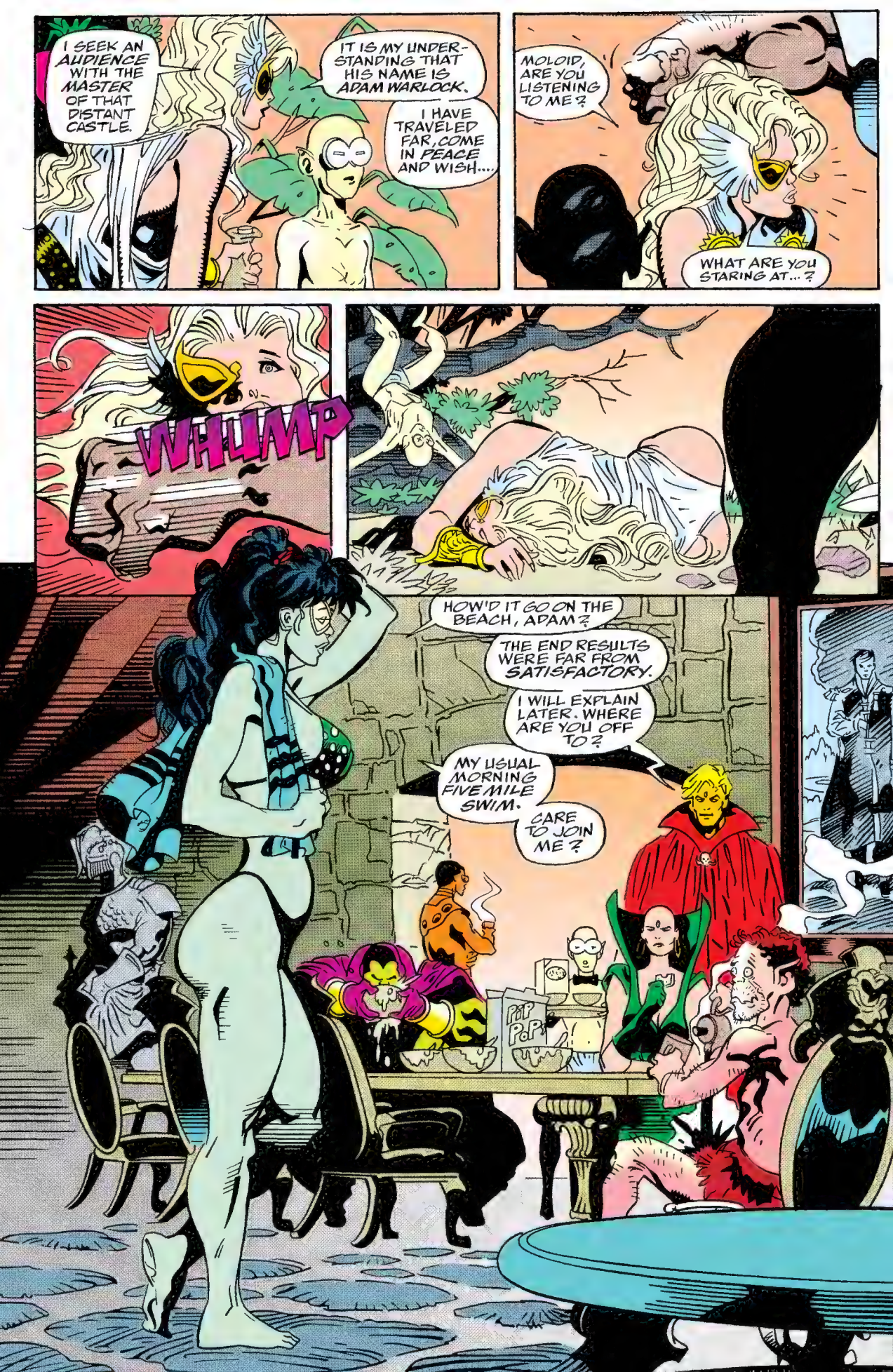
"SO MUCH CHAOS!
"IMAGERY COMING IN TOO FAST!
"OVERLAPPING TOO MUCH!

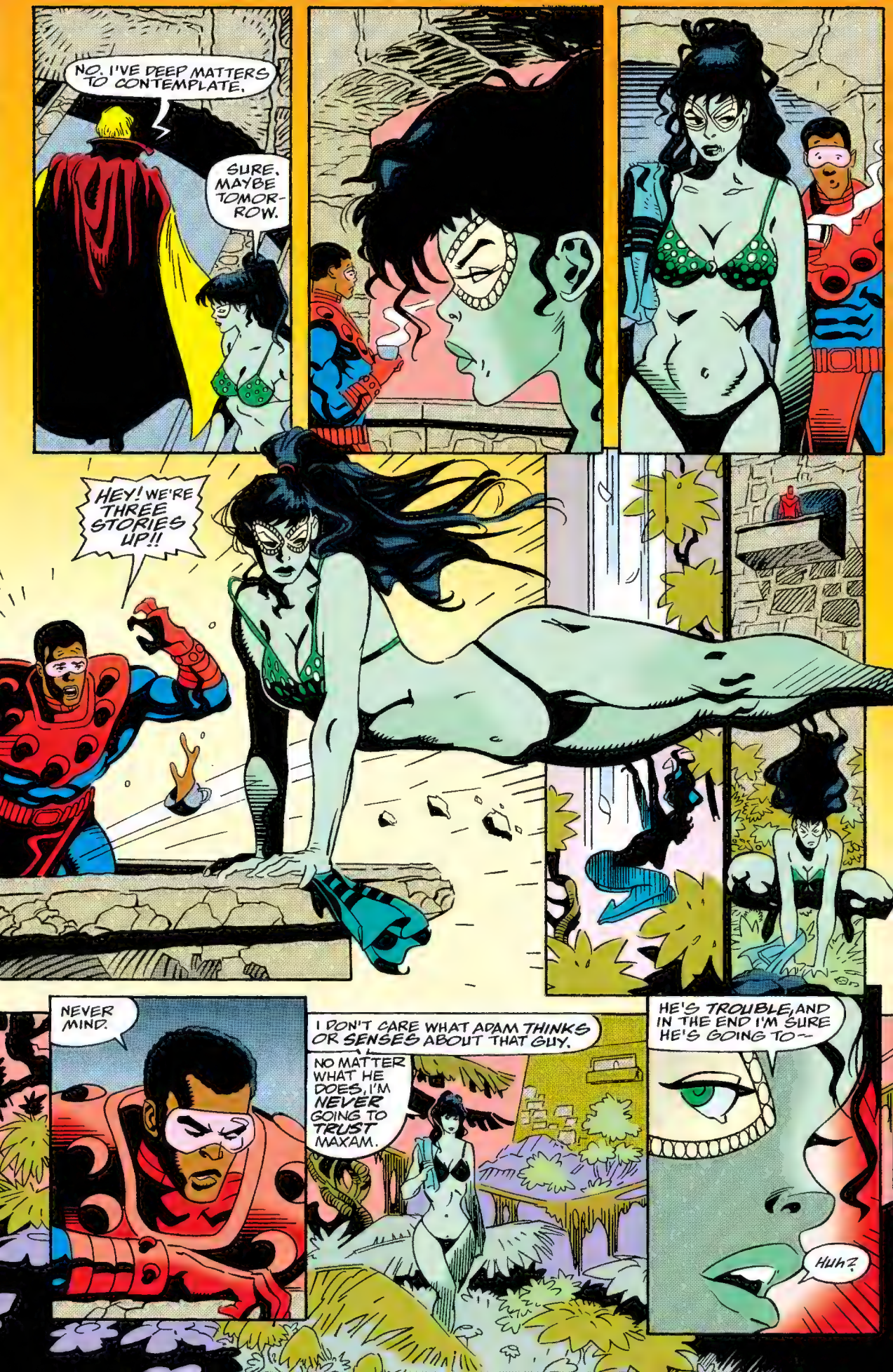

"AGONY SURGE!
"OVER-LOADING!"
YOU ARE THE LAST!
ALL DEPENDS ON YOU!


WE'VE WALKED INTO A TRAP!
"MAXAM'S MENTAL DEFENSES ARE MUCH MORE COMPLEX THAN I EVER SUSPECTED.
"WHOEVER INSTITUTED THIS PROGRAMMING WAS A TACTICAL GENIUS.
"MAX'S MIND COULD NOT CONTAIN ENOUGH RAW POWER TO KEEP A TELEPATH OUT WITH THE BACKING I HAD.
"SO PSYCHIC BOOBYTRAPS WERE SET UP LIKE THIS MENTAL MAELSTROM WE GOT CAUGHT UP IN."

I HAD TO BREAK OFF CONTACT OR WE WOULD HAVE ALL SUFFERED BRAIN DAMAGE.
DRAX CAN'T AFFORD ANY MORE THAN HE ALREADY HAS.
I NOW SEE DIRECT TRANSGRESS INTO MAX'S MIND IS TOO DANGEROUS TO TRY AGAIN, EVEN FOR US.
THAT WAS FUN.
A LEAST WE GOT A SLIGHT GLIMPSE INTO MAXAM'S PAST.
BUT IT WAS SO CONFUSING IT DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING, EVEN TO ME.
CAN WE DO THAT AGAIN?
BUT IT WAS CLEAR ENOUGH TO PIECE TOGETHER ONE IMPORTANT FACT.
MAXAM, DESPITE YOUR MASTERY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND FAMILIARITY WITH THIS PLANET'S TECHNOLOGY--
--IT IS APPARENT FROM THIS SLICE OF MEMORY THAT YOU ARE NOT FROM EARTH.
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT ALIEN WHO SPOKE IN THE VISION? HE WAS...
BADOON!


ANOTHER BIT OF INFO YOU CAN RECALL BUT DON'T KNOW HOW?
YEAH.
GAMORA DIDN'T CARE FOR YOU BEFORE; NOW SHE'S REALLY GOING TO HAVE IT IN FOR YOU.
IT WAS THE BADOON WHO KILLED HER PARENTS.
WHY?
TERRIFIC! HOW CAN ONE GUY GET SO LUCKY?
"WE CAN SPECULATE ON THAT LATER. MEANTIME I SUGGEST WE HEAD BACK TO THE CASTLE.
"AND IT MIGHT BE WISE TO KEEP GAMORA IN THE DARK ABOUT THIS LATEST REVELATION FOR THE MOMENT."
"YOU WON'T GET ANY ARGUMENT FROM ME ON THAT COUNT, ADAM."
"I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD. GAMORA IS RATHER OLD TESTAMENT IN HER NOTIONS ABOUT VENGEANCE.
"IF SHE DISCOVERS YOU HAD ANY KIND OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE BADOON, MAXAM, YOU WOULD NOT LAST THE DAY."
GREETINGS, FRIEND MOLOID.


I SEEK AN AUDIENCE WITH THE MASTER OF THAT DISTANT CASTLE.
IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT HIS NAME IS ADAM WARLOCK.
I HAVE TRAVELED FAR, COME IN PEACE AND WISH....
MOLOID, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT...?
WHUMP
HOW'D IT GO ON THE BEACH, ADAM?
THE END RESULTS WERE FAR FROM SATISFACTORY.
I WILL EXPLAIN LATER. WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?
MY USUAL MORNING FIVE MILE SWIM.
CARE TO JOIN ME?
POP POP


NO. I'VE DEEP MATTERS TO CONTEMPLATE.
SURE. MAYBE TOMOR-ROW.
HEY! WE'RE THREE STORIES UP!!
NEVER MIND.
I DON'T CARE WHAT ADAM THINKS OR SENSES ABOUT THAT GUY.
NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES, I'M NEVER GOING TO TRUST MAXAM.
HE'S TROUBLE, AND IN THE END I'M SURE HE'S GOING TO--
HUH?

A MOLOID AND A STRANGE WOMAN-- UNCONSCIOUS!
DID THEY DO THIS TO EACH OTHER, OR--

TRULY AMAZING! THE WOMAN DID ACTUALLY FELL THE VISION!
SHE MUST HAVE CAUGHT HIM BEFORE HE HAD THE CHANCE TO SHIFT HIS MASS PROPERLY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. WE STILL HAVE THE MANPOWER TO HANDLE THE JOB WE CAME TO DO.
SAY, GUYS...

...LOOKS LIKE WE LOST HAVING THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE ON OUR SIDE.
THE AVENGERS!
AND THEY'RE DEFINITELY HERE ON SERIOUS BUSINESS!
WE'RE BEING INVADED! SOMEONE FETCH WARLOCK OUT OF HIS VOID ROOM!
I AIN'T GOIN' BACK IN THERE AGAIN FOR NOTHIN'!
AVENGERS, I WOULD KNOW WHY YOU HAVE COME TO MONSTER ISLE IN SUCH A HOSTILE FASHION.
HAVE WE NOT BEEN ALLIES, IF NOT FRIENDS, IN THE PAST?
YOUR ACTIONS ARE UNFATHOMABLE. WHAT SAY YOU?

WARLOCK MUST DIE!

ADAM, YOU BRING THAT SENTIMENT OUT IN FOLKS ALMOST AS OFTEN AS I DO.

WHY THAT?

IT'S HIS SMILE!

BUT PIP, HE NEVER SMILES!

YOU GOT IT, MAX.

GRINDBERG & ALMOND

NEXT:

AVENGERS VS. INFINITY WATCH!

JIM STARLIN
CREATOR/WRITER

TOM GRINDBERG
PENCILS

BOB ALMOND
INKS

JACK MORELLI
LETTERS

IAN LAUGHLIN
COLORS

CRAIG ANDERSON
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TOM DeFALCO
KAHUNA

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WARLOCK
INFINITY WATCH
LOOKING FOR TROUBLE?
YA FOUND IT, YA JERKS!

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RANDEMONIUM DID NOT REIGN; IT POURED. --JOHN KENDRICK BANGS

DIE!

WHY DO YOU AVENGERS ATTACK US, GIANT-MAN?

WE HAVE DONE YOU NO WRONG!

ON MONSTER ISLE, OUTSIDE THE CASTLE OF ADAM WARLOCK:
THE AVENGERS VS. THE INFINITY WATCH!

DRAX LIKES YOUR NEW OUTFIT, THOR!

THE NAME'S THUNDER-STRIKE, NOT THOR!

WHATEVER! DRAX STILL GOING TO POUND YOUR HEAD IN!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALL MINE, GORGEOUS!

COME AN' GIT ME!

JIM STARLIN
WRITER AND CREATOR

TOM GRINDBERG
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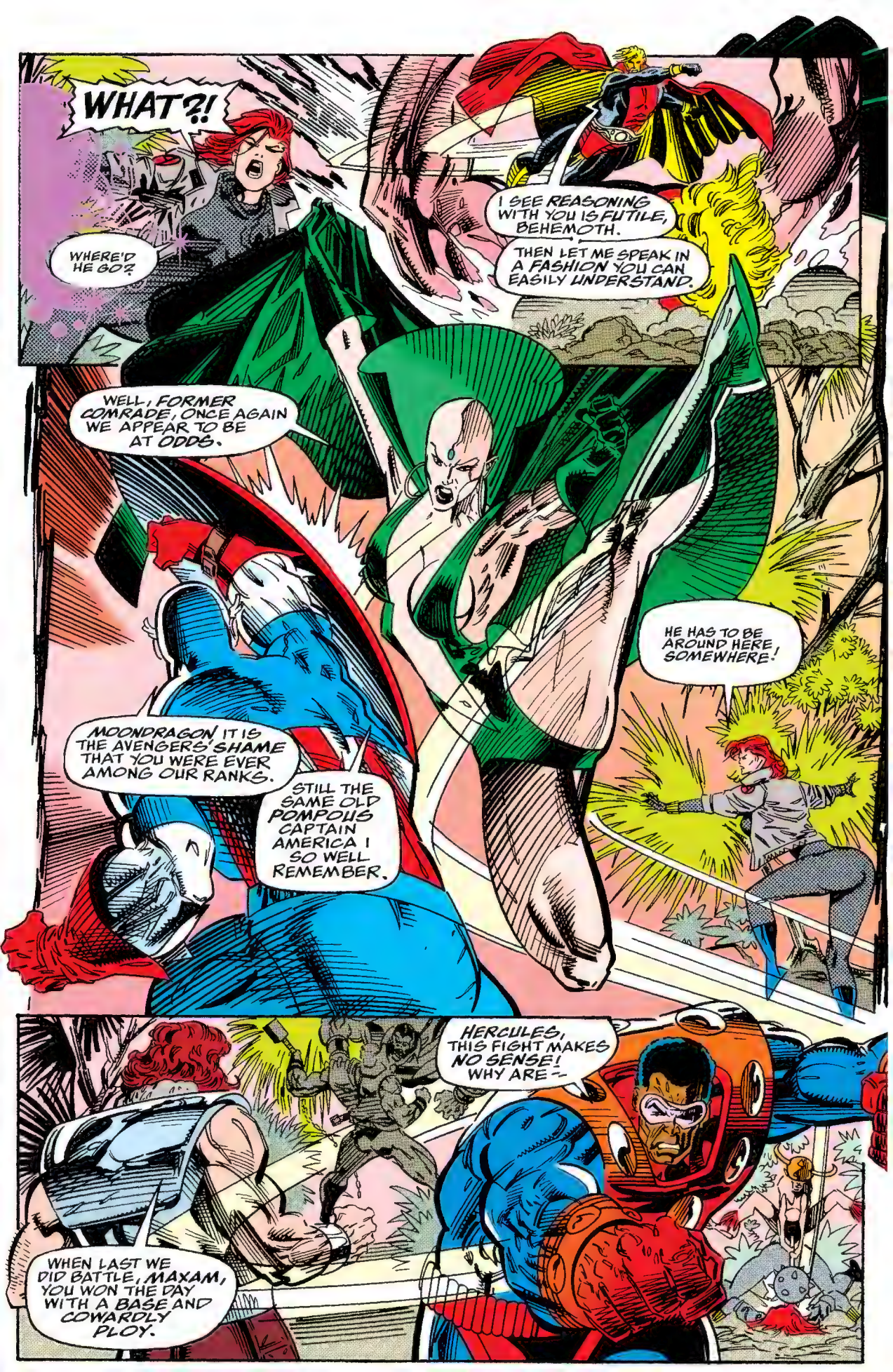
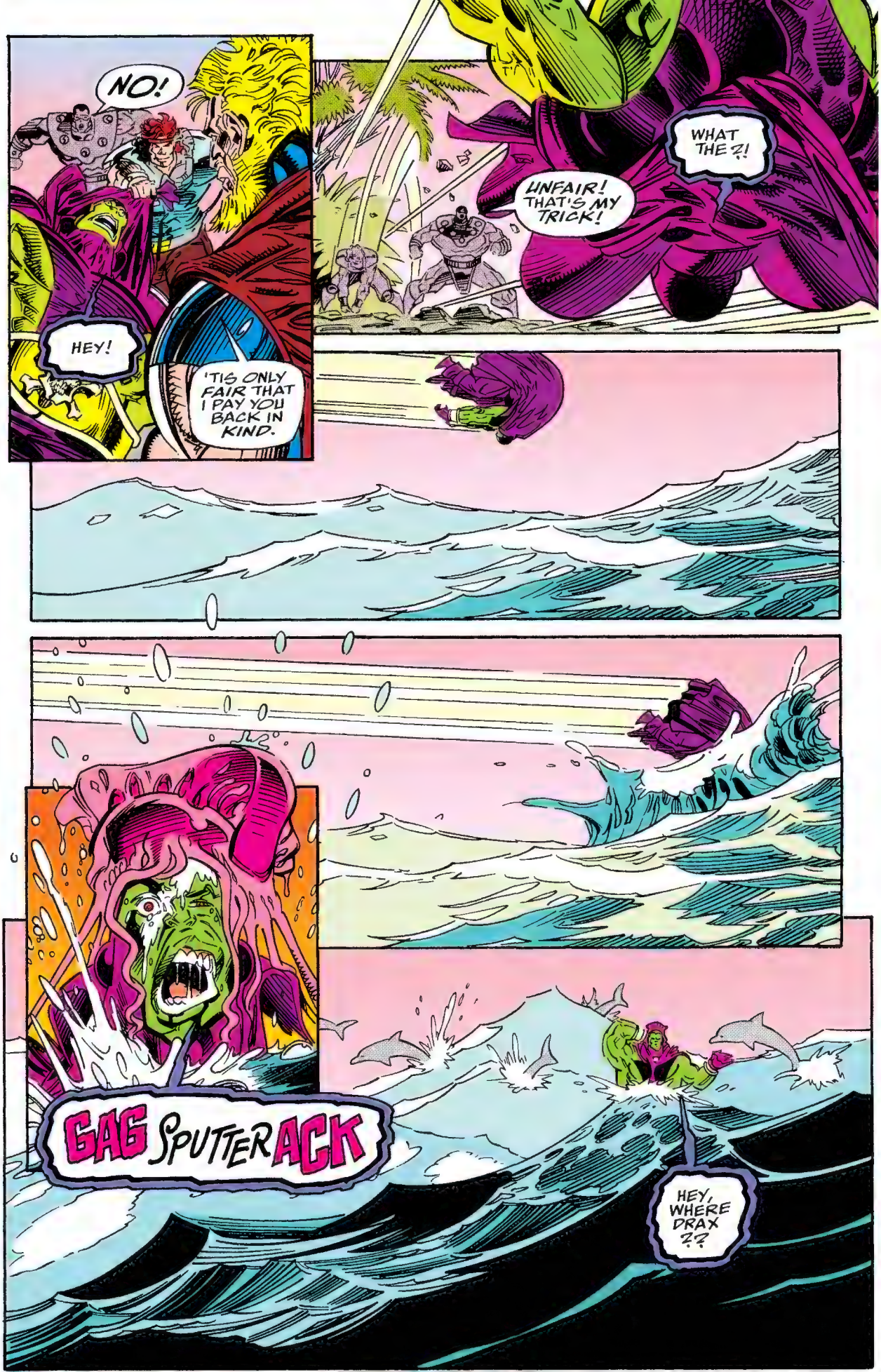
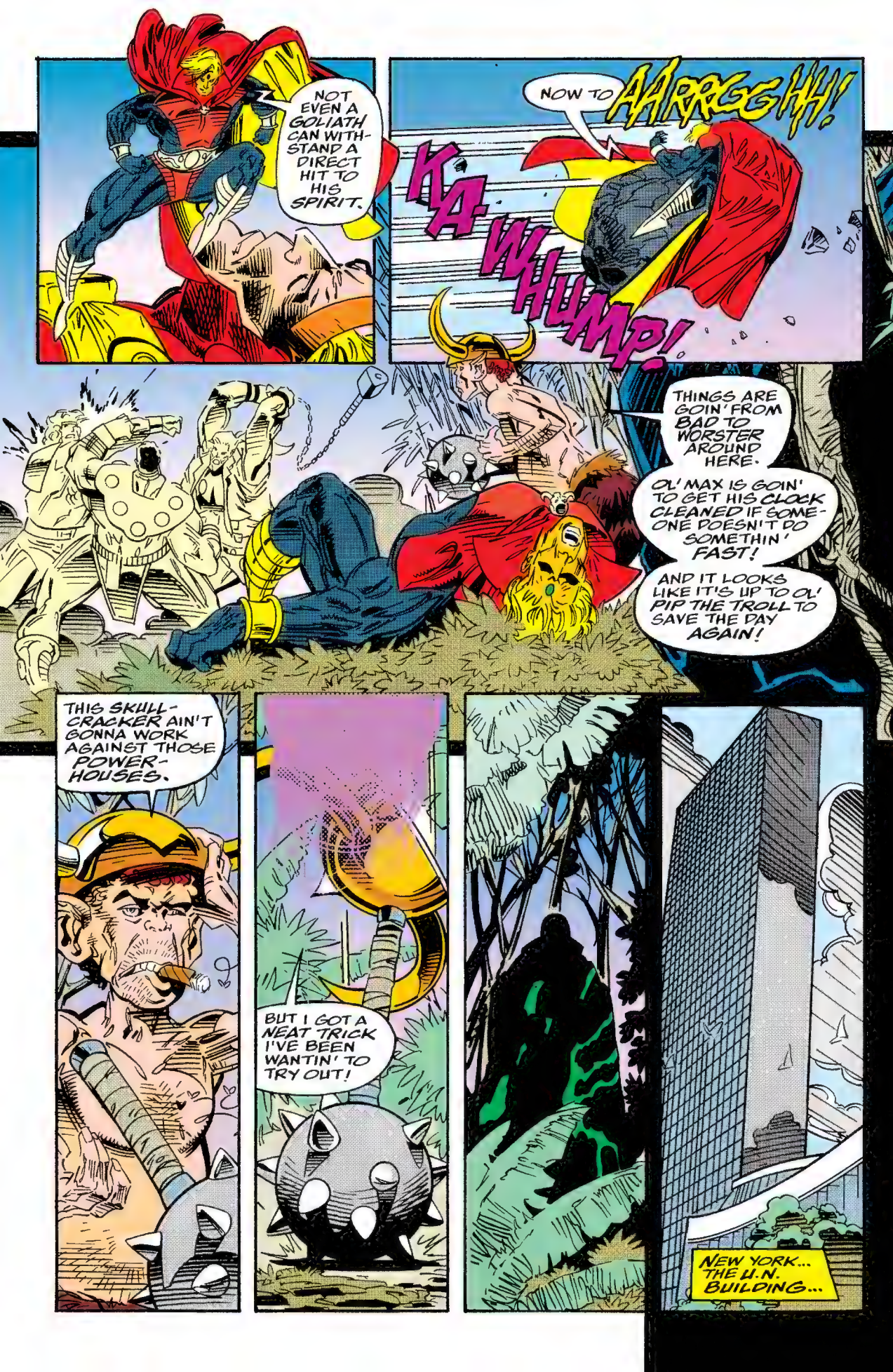
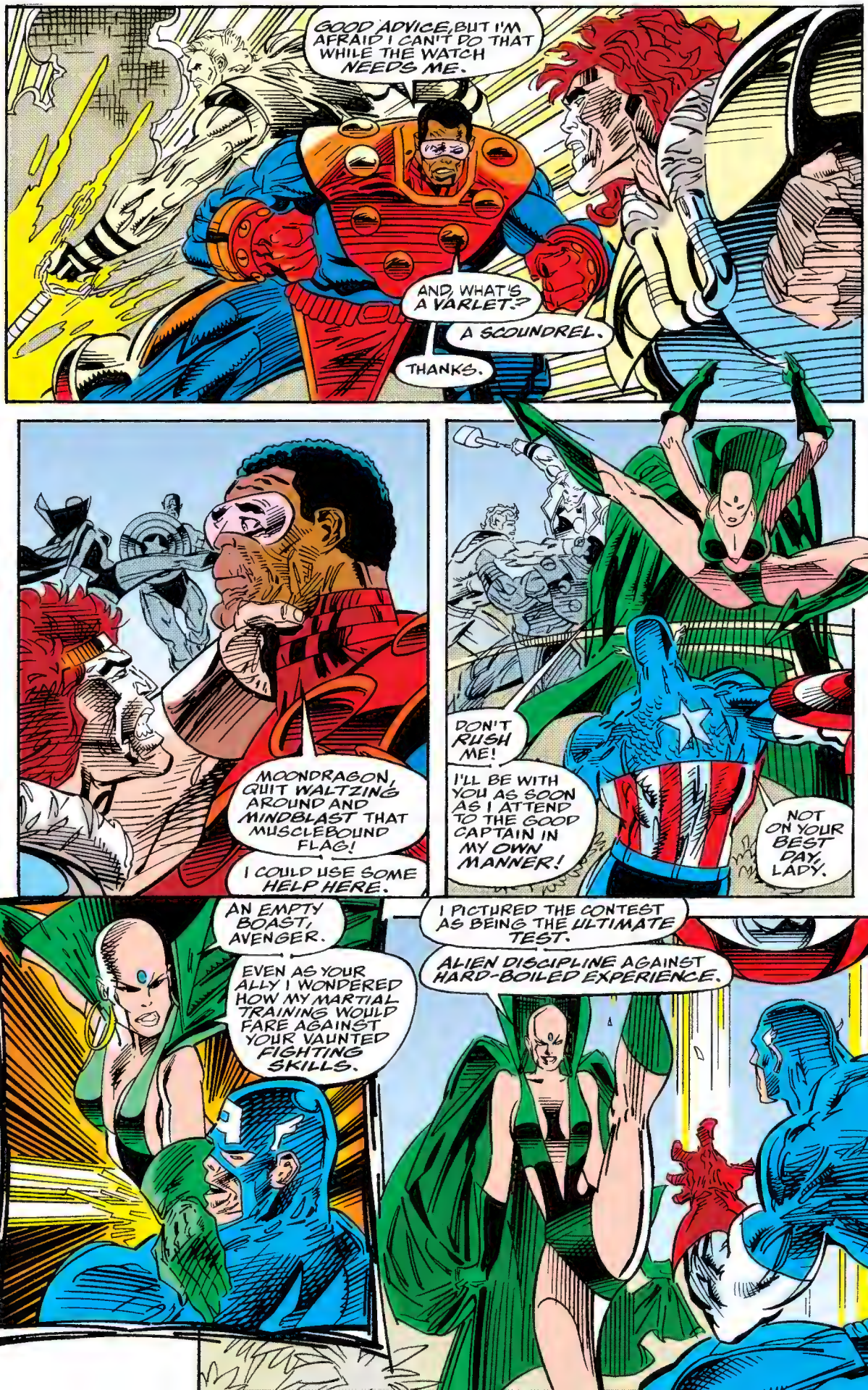

WHAT?!
WHERE'D HE GO?
I SEE REASONING WITH YOU IS FUTILE, BEHEMOTH.
THEN LET ME SPEAK IN A FASHION YOU CAN EASILY UNDERSTAND.
WELL, FORMER COMRADE, ONCE AGAIN WE APPEAR TO BE AT ODDS.
HE HAS TO BE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE!
MOONDRAGON IT IS THE AVENGERS' SHAME THAT YOU WERE EVER AMONG OUR RANKS.
STILL THE SAME OLD POMPOUS CAPTAIN AMERICA I SO WELL REMEMBER.
HERCULES, THIS FIGHT MAKES NO SENSE! WHY ARE--
WHEN LAST WE DID BATTLE, MAXAM, YOU WON THE DAY WITH A BASE AND COWARDLY PLOY.

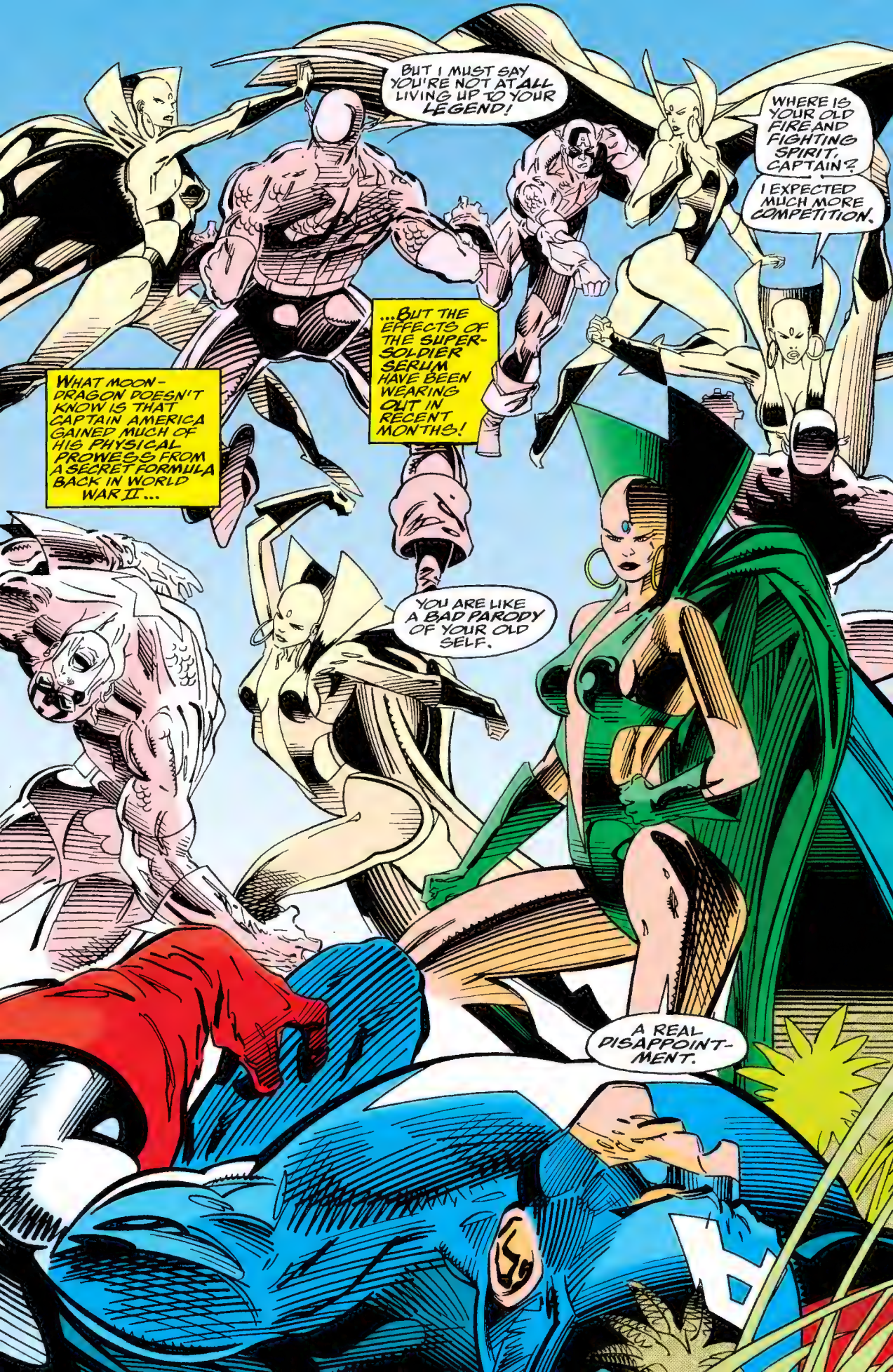

NO!
HEY!
'TIS ONLY FAIR THAT I PAY YOU BACK IN KIND.
WHAT THE ?!
UNFAIR! THAT'S MY TRICK!
GAG SPUTTER ACK
HEY, WHERE DRAX ??

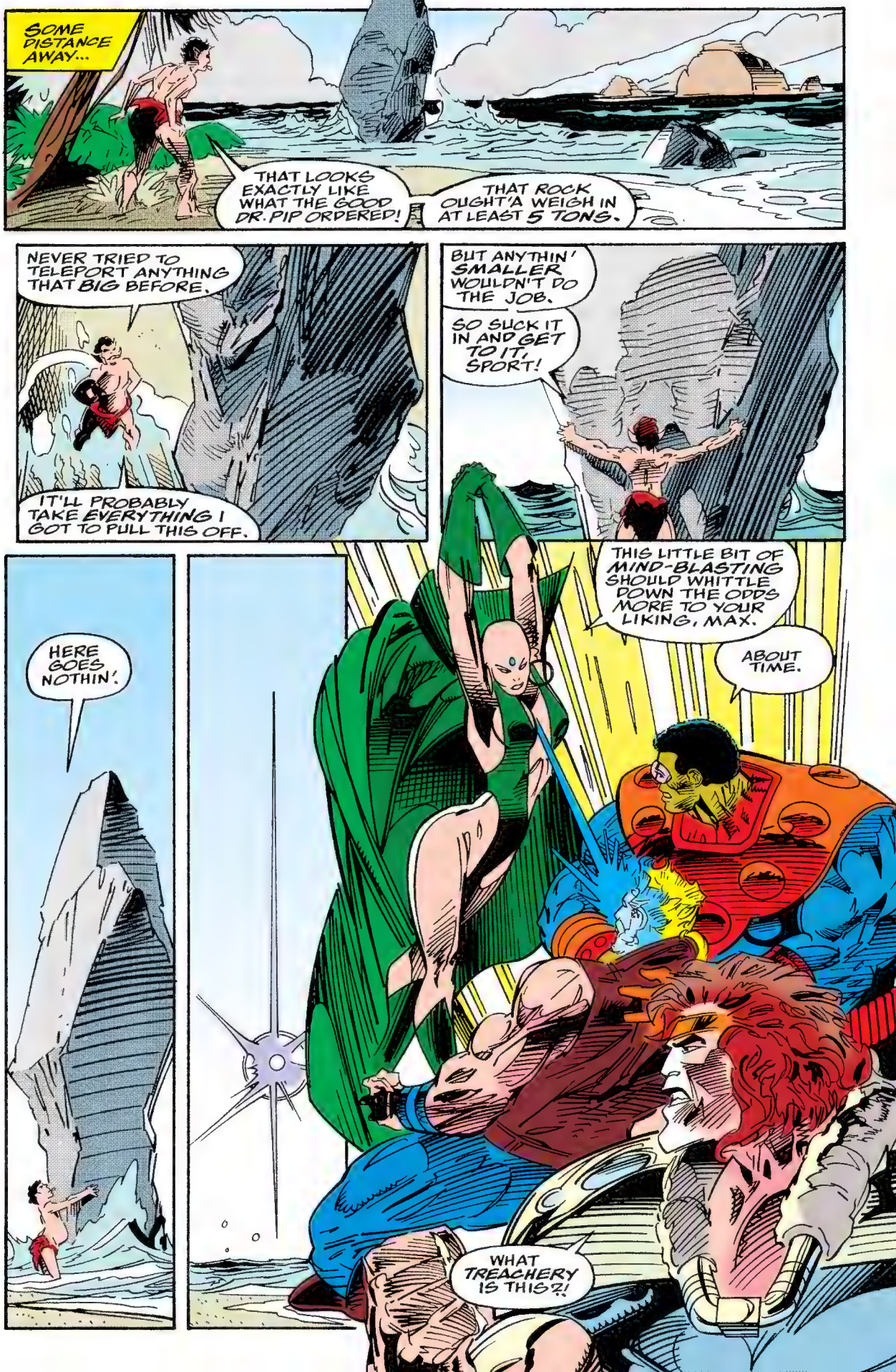
MAX, YOU NOW FIND YOURSELF FACING OFF WITH TWO OF THE MOST POWERFUL HEROES ON EARTH.
THEY'RE BOTH AS STRONG AS YOU AND OUT FOR BLOOD.
YOUR CHOICES ARE TO EITHER VALIANTLY SLUG IT OUT WITH THEM AND LET FATE DECIDE THE VICTOR...
...OR...
BE WITH YOU IN A MOMENT, MAXAM...
SOMEBODY--HELP!
...AS SOON AS I DISPOSE OF MY OPPONENT WITH A KARMIC BLAST!


NOT EVEN A GOLIATH CAN WITHSTAND A DIRECT HIT TO HIS SPIRIT.
NOW TO
AARRGGHH!
KA-WHUMP!
THINGS ARE GOIN' FROM BAD TO WORSTER AROUND HERE.
OL' MAX IS GOIN' TO GET HIS CLOCK CLEANED IF SOMEONE DOESN'T DO SOMETHIN' FAST!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S UP TO OL' PIP THE TROLL TO SAVE THE DAY AGAIN!
THIS SKULL-CRACKER AIN'T GONNA WORK AGAINST THOSE POWER-HOUSES.
BUT I GOT A NEAT TRICK I'VE BEEN WANTIN' TO TRY OUT!
NEW YORK... THE U.N. BUILDING...

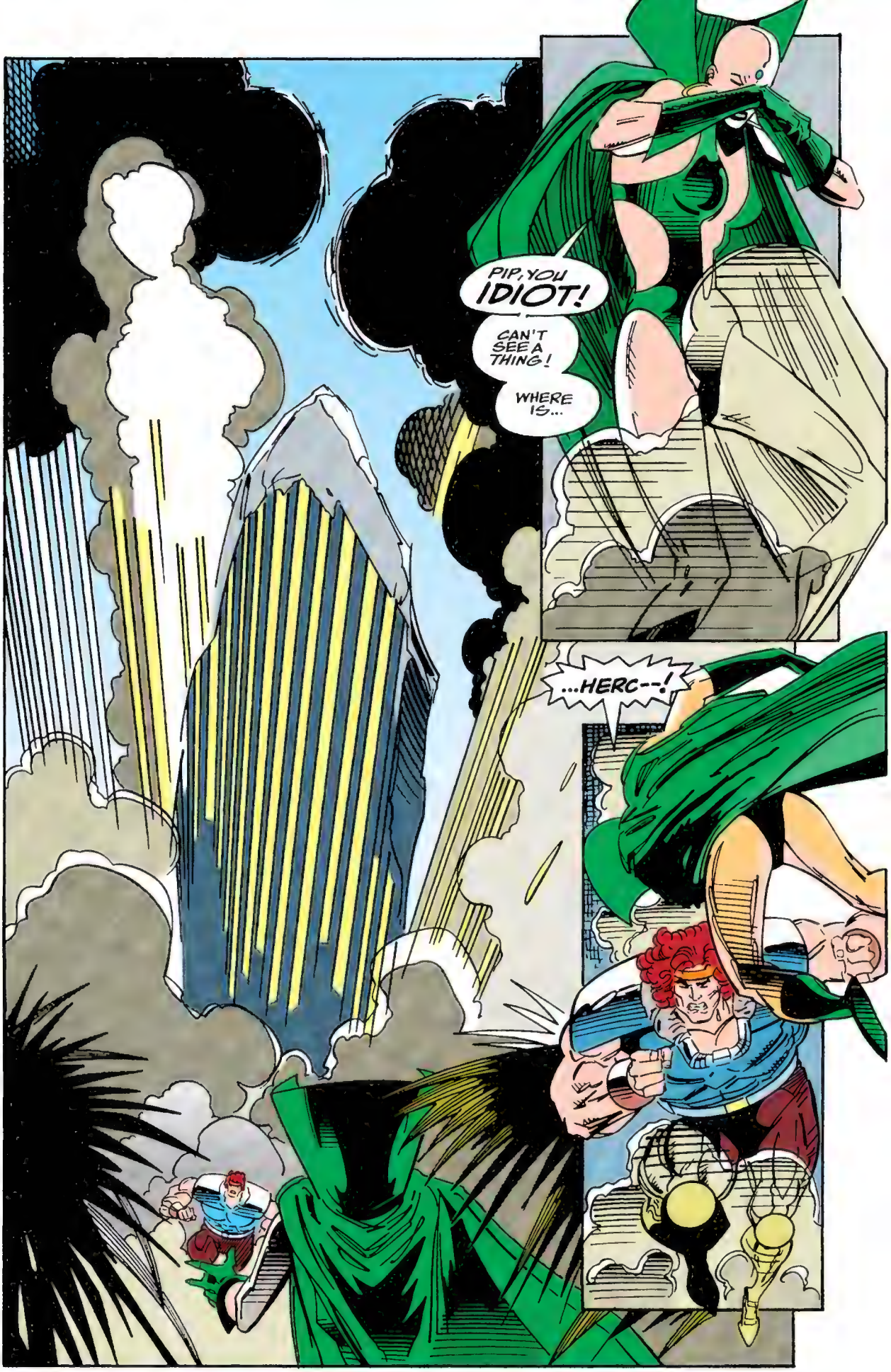
THE OFFICE OF SENATOR KYLE MUNSON...
ANY WORD?
NO. THE BATTLE MAY NOT HAVE YET EVEN BEGUN.
PATIENCE.
BESIDES, THE CONFLICT'S OUTCOME IS OF VERY LITTLE IMPORTANCE.
SENATOR MUNSON
IF MY ENTHRALLED AVENGERS SUCCEED IN KILLING WARLOCK THEN MY THIRST FOR VENGEANCE WILL BE SATED.
AND IF THE AVENGERS LOSE...
...AT LEAST ONE OF THEIR NUMBER WILL BE KILLED IN THE PROCESS.
THE INFINITY WATCH WILL BE BRANDED MURDEROUS VILLAINS.
ALL OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES WILL UNITE TO DRIVE THE WATCH FROM THIS PLANET... OR DESTROY THEM!
SO YOU SEE, EITHER OUTCOME ASSURES OUR DESIRED END. ONCE WARLOCK IS REMOVED THIS WORLD IS OURS FOR THE TAKING.
YOU KNOW, I'M REALLY GETTING TIRED OF BEING A PUNCHING BAG FOR YOU GUYS.
THEN STAY DOWN, VARLET!


GOOD ADVICE, BUT I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT WHILE THE WATCH NEEDS ME.
AND, WHAT'S A VARLET?
A SCOUNDREL.
THANKS.
MOONDRAGON, QUIT WALTZING AROUND AND MINDBLAST THAT MUSCLEBOUND FLAG!
I COULD USE SOME HELP HERE.
DON'T RUSH ME!
I'LL BE WITH YOU AS SOON AS I ATTEND TO THE GOOD CAPTAIN IN MY OWN MANNER!
NOT ON YOUR BEST DAY, LADY.
AN EMPTY BOAST, AVENGER.
EVEN AS YOUR ALLY I WONDERED HOW MY MARTIAL TRAINING WOULD FARE AGAINST YOUR VAUNTED FIGHTING SKILLS.
I PICTURED THE CONTEST AS BEING THE ULTIMATE TEST.
ALIEN DISCIPLINE AGAINST HARD-BOILED EXPERIENCE.

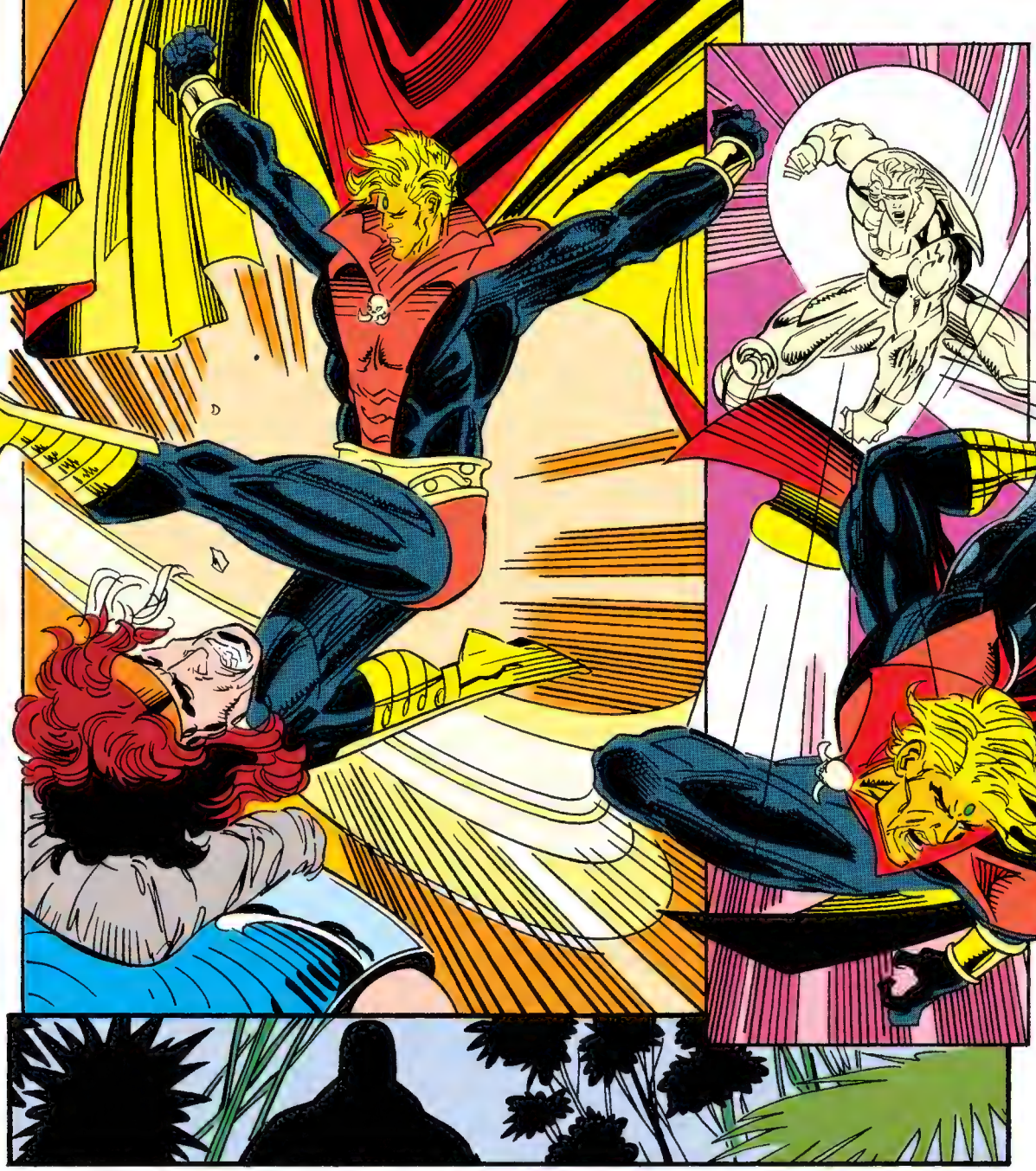

BUT I MUST SAY YOU'RE NOT AT ALL LIVING UP TO YOUR LEGEND!
WHERE IS YOUR OLD FIRE AND FIGHTING SPIRIT, CAPTAIN?
I EXPECTED MUCH MORE COMPETITION.
...BUT THE EFFECTS OF THE SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM HAVE BEEN WEARING OUT IN RECENT MONTHS!
WHAT MOON-DRAGON DOESN'T KNOW IS THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA GAINED MUCH OF HIS PHYSICAL PROWESS FROM A SECRET FORMULA BACK IN WORLD WAR II...
YOU ARE LIKE A BAD PARODY OF YOUR OLD SELF.
A REAL DISAPPOINT-MENT.

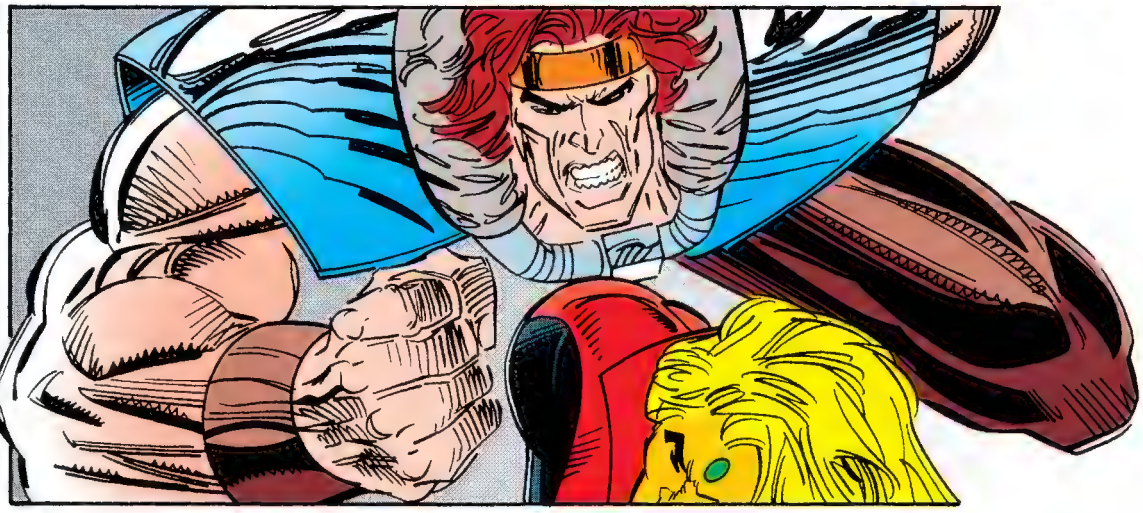

SOME DISTANCE AWAY...
THAT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE WHAT THE GOOD DR. PIP ORDERED!
THAT ROCK OUGHT'A WEIGH IN AT LEAST 5 TONS.
NEVER TRIED TO TELEPORT ANYTHING THAT BIG BEFORE.
IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE EVERYTHING I GOT TO PULL THIS OFF.
BUT ANYTHIN' SMALLER WOULDN'T DO THE JOB.
SO SUCK IT IN AND GET TO IT, SPORT!
HERE GOES NOTHIN'.
THIS LITTLE BIT OF MIND-BLASTING SHOULD WHITTLE DOWN THE ODDS MORE TO YOUR LIKING, MAX.
ABOUT TIME.
WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS?!

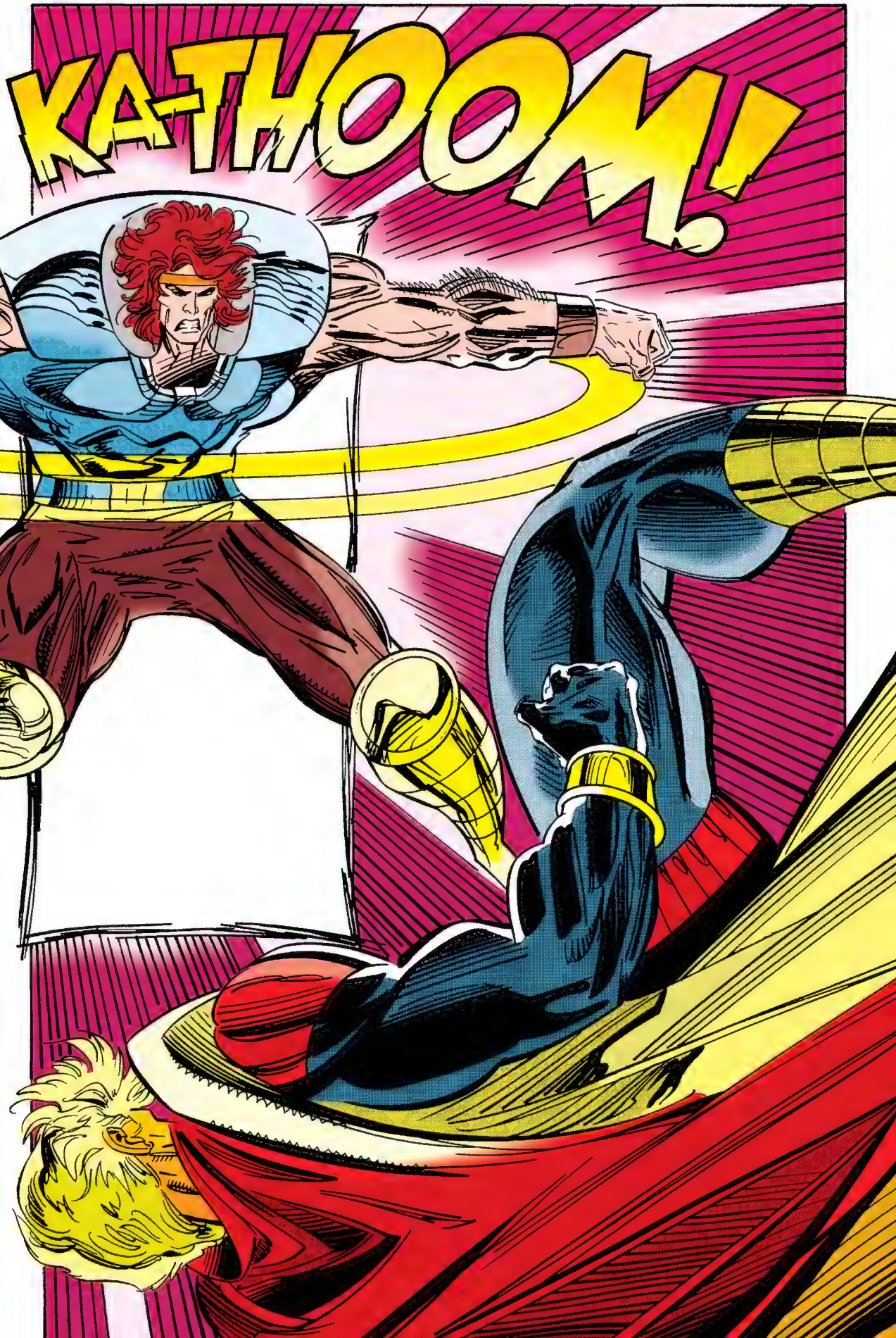
BOMBS AWAY!
HUH?
WHERE'S HERC GOING?
OH, NO.

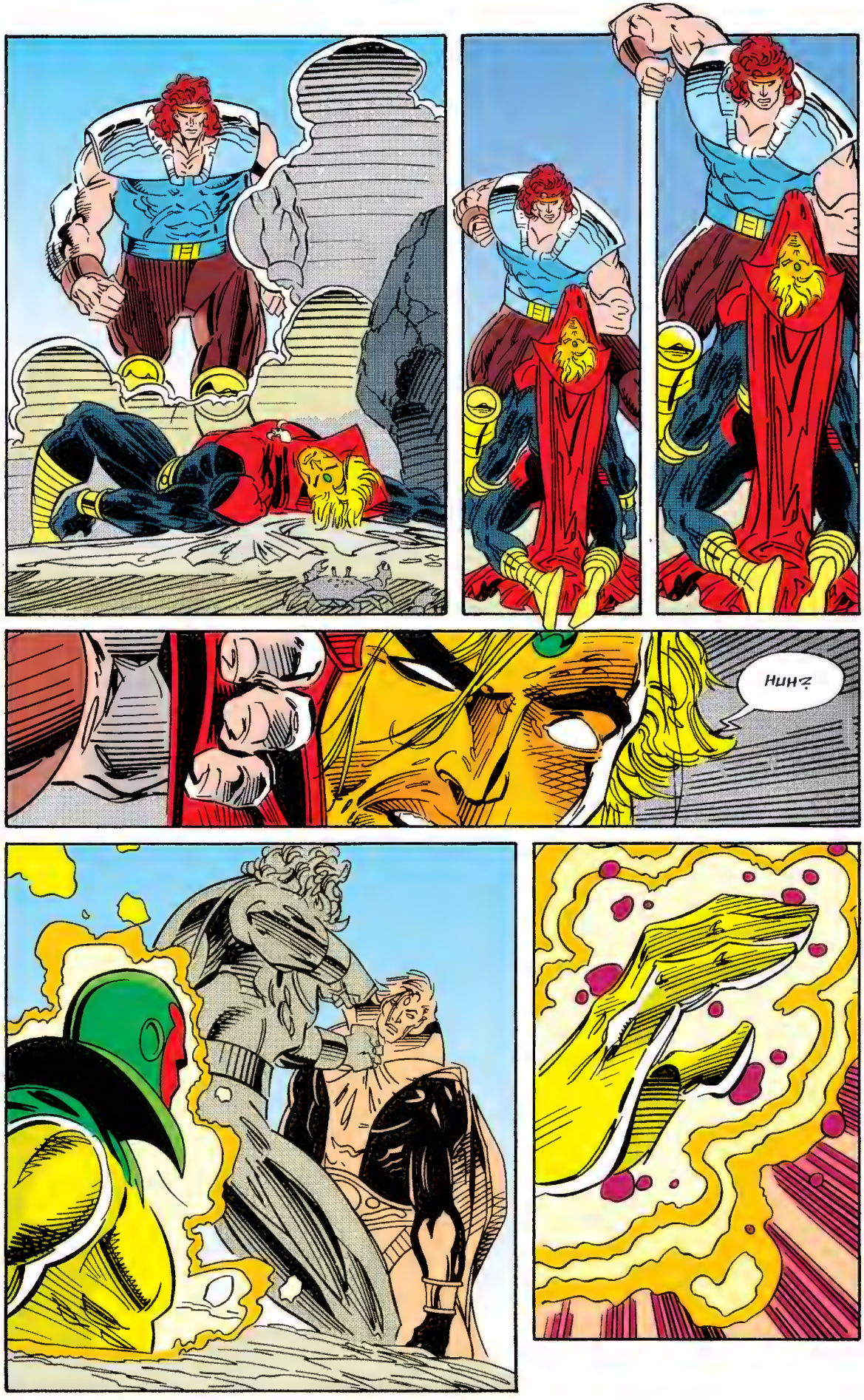

PIP, YOU IDIOT!
CAN'T SEE A THING!
WHERE IS...
...HERC--!

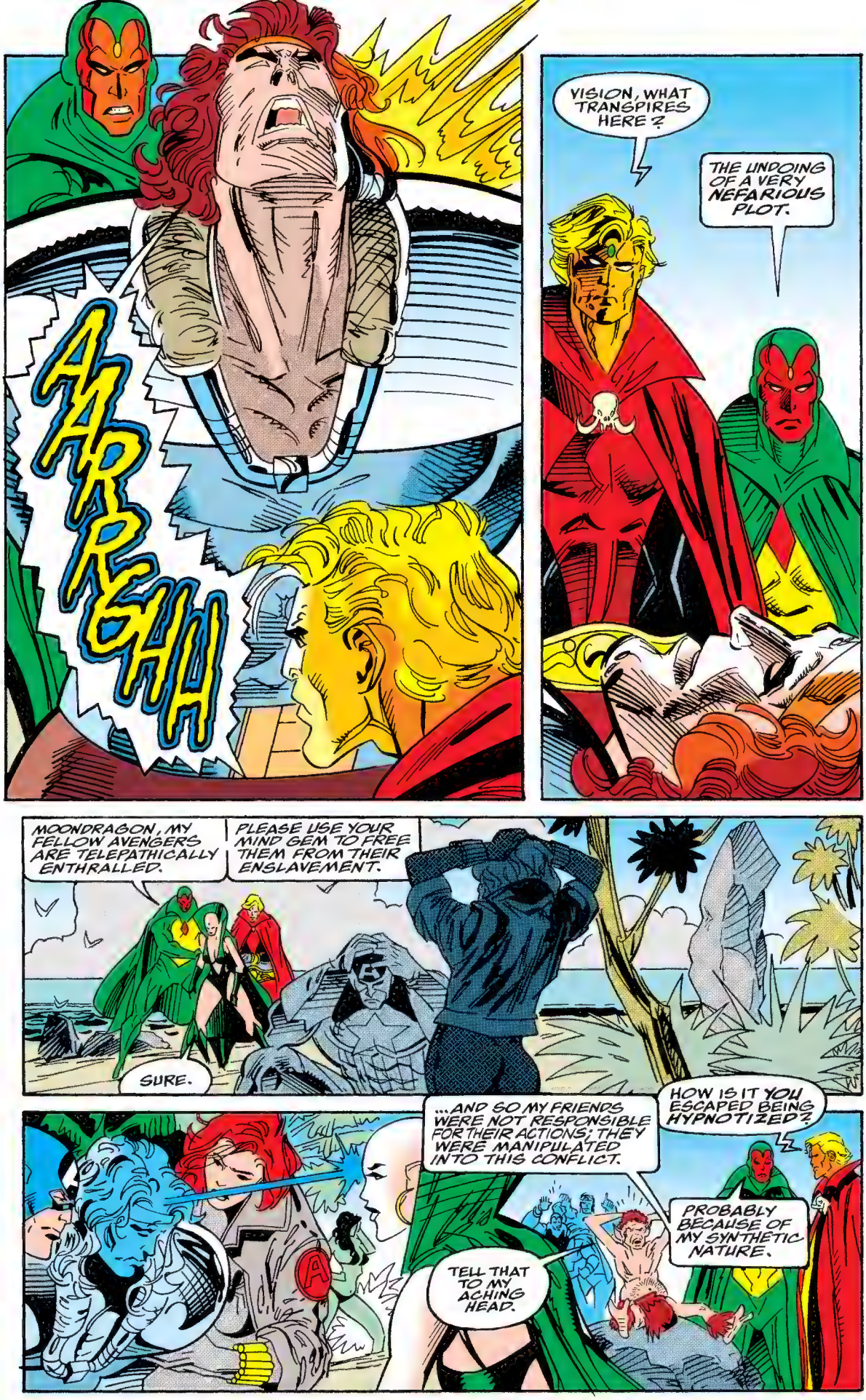
WARLOCK--
THE LAST AND
MOST IMPORTANT
OF THE WATCH TO
BE DEALT WITH.
EASIER
SAID THAN
DONE.

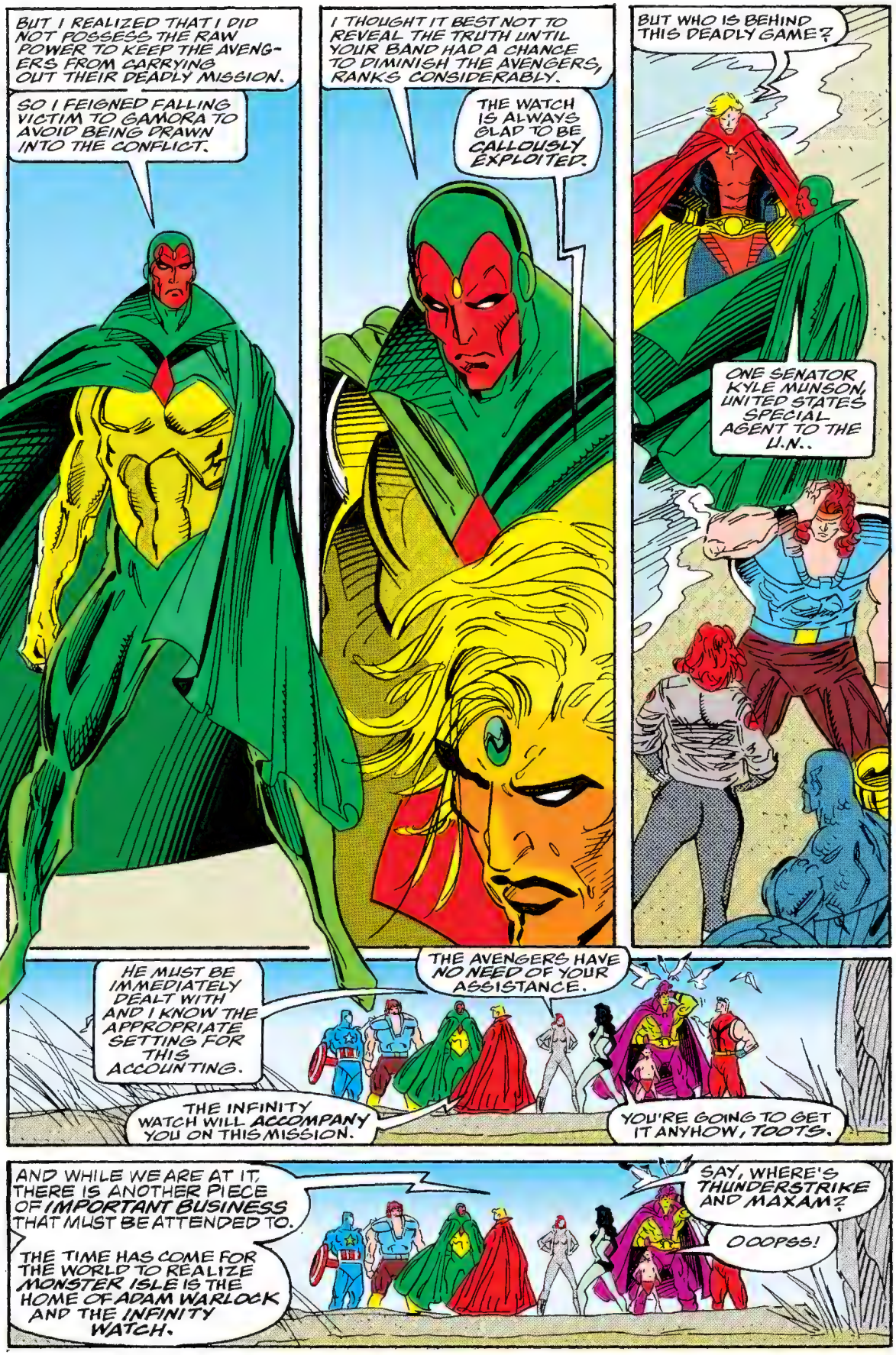


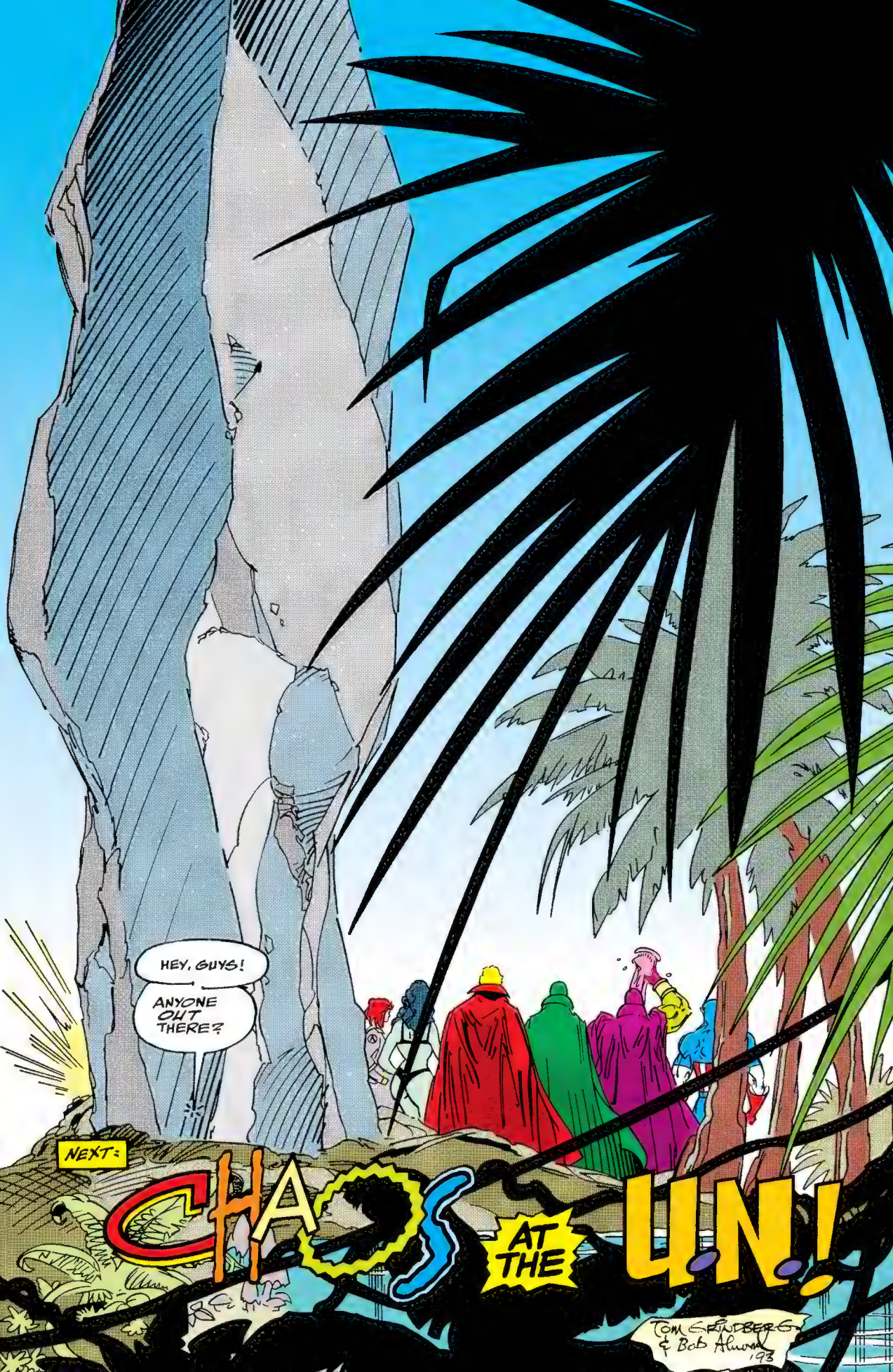



KA-THOOM!


HUH?


AARGHH
VISION, WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?
THE UNDOING OF A VERY NEFARIOUS PLOT.
MOONDRAGON, MY FELLOW AVENGERS ARE TELEPATHICALLY ENTHRALLED.
PLEASE USE YOUR MIND GEM TO FREE THEM FROM THEIR ENSLAVEMENT.
SURE.
...AND SO MY FRIENDS WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS; THEY WERE MANIPULATED INTO THIS CONFLICT.
HOW IS IT YOU ESCAPED BEING HYPNOTIZED?
PROBABLY BECAUSE OF MY SYNTHETIC NATURE.
TELL THAT TO MY ACHING HEAD.


BUT I REALIZED THAT I DID NOT POSSESS THE RAW POWER TO KEEP THE AVENGERS FROM CARRYING OUT THEIR DEADLY MISSION.
SO I FEIGNED FALLING VICTIM TO GAMORA TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO THE CONFLICT.
I THOUGHT IT BEST NOT TO REVEAL THE TRUTH UNTIL YOUR BAND HAD A CHANCE TO DIMINISH THE AVENGERS, RANKS CONSIDERABLY.
THE WATCH IS ALWAYS GLAD TO BE CALLOUSLY EXPLOITED.
BUT WHO IS BEHIND THIS DEADLY GAME?
ONE SENATOR KYLE MUNSON, UNITED STATES SPECIAL AGENT TO THE U.N..
HE MUST BE IMMEDIATELY DEALT WITH AND I KNOW THE APPROPRIATE SETTING FOR THIS ACCOUNTING.
THE AVENGERS HAVE NO NEED OF YOUR ASSISTANCE.
THE INFINITY WATCH WILL ACCOMPANY YOU ON THIS MISSION.
YOU'RE GOING TO GET IT ANYHOW, TOOTS.
AND WHILE WE ARE AT IT, THERE IS ANOTHER PIECE OF IMPORTANT BUSINESS THAT MUST BE ATTENDED TO.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE WORLD TO REALIZE MONSTER ISLE IS THE HOME OF ADAM WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH.
SAY, WHERE'S THUNDERSTRIKE AND MAXAM?
OOOPSS!


HEY, GUYS!
ANYONE OUT THERE?
NEXT:
CHAOS AT THE U.N.!
TOM GRUNDBERG & Bob Almond '93

MARVEL COMICS
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
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28
MAY
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FACE THE AWSOME FURY OF THE
MAN-BEAST

CHAOS AT THE U.N.!

JIM STARLIN WRITER/CREATOR | JEFF MOORE PENCILER | TIM DZON INKER | JACK MORELLI LETTERER | IAN LAUGHLIN COLORIST | CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR | TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

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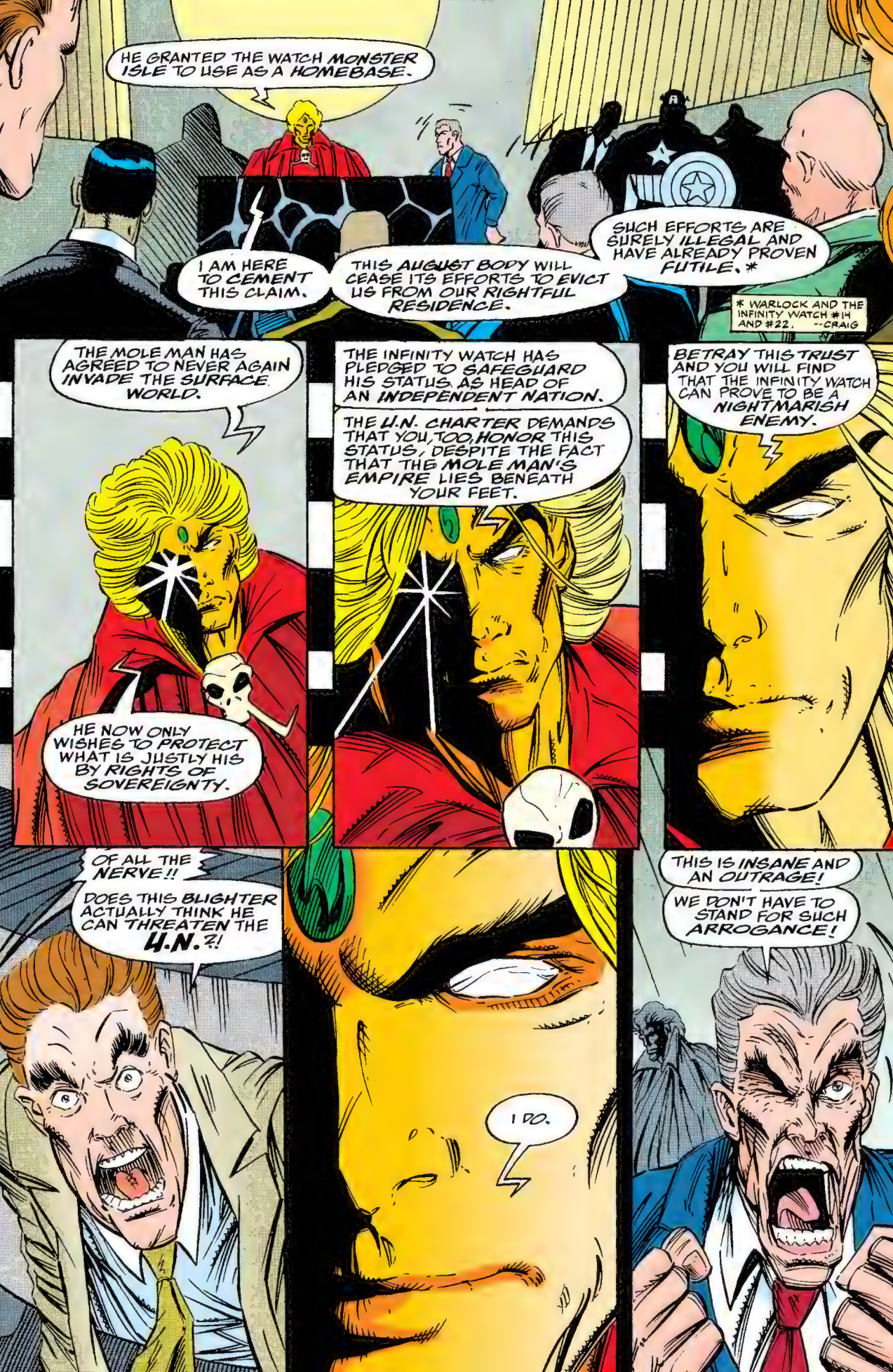
WEIRD. ALL THIS MYSTERY WOMAN BROUGHT WITH HER WAS...
... A BOTTLE OF HOOCH.
THE HYPNOTIC TRANCE I WAS IN DID OBVIOUSLY FOG MY JUDGMENT,
BUT DIDN'T DIMINISH THE POWER OF YOUR FISTS ANY, HERCULES.
THE MEDISCAN INDICATES SHE'LL PROBABLY REMAIN UNCONSCIOUS FOR ANOTHER COUPLE HOURS.
SMELLS LIKE THE GOOD STUFF.
HERC, YOU WANT TO GO BELT BACK A FEW?
FORGET IT, YOU LITTLE DEGENERATE!
HAVEN'T YOU A LICK OF SENSE?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS WINE ISN'T POISON?!
I ALREADY RAN A SAMPLE THROUGH SCANNERS, GAMORA.
THERE'S NOTHING TOXIC IN THAT BOTTLE EXCEPT ALCOHOL.
THE LADY'S DRINKING HABITS ARE OF NO IMPORTANCE FOR THE MOMENT.
NOR IS THE WOMAN HERSELF FOR THAT MATTER.
LOOKS LIKE THE BRAIN TRUST FINALLY FINISHED THEIR STRATEGY SESSION.
ABOUT TIME.
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT CREEPY SENATOR MUNSON.

PERSONAL RETRIBUTION IS SOMETHING YOU WILL BE DENIED THIS TIME, WIDOW.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, VISION?
BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SITUATION AND THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE LOCALE IN WHICH WE PLAN TO CONFRONT SENATOR MUNSON, CONCERNING HIS CRIMES, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED...
...THE TASK FORCE INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION WILL CONSIST SOLELY OF CAPTAIN AMERICA, WARLOCK AND MYSELF.
WITH PIP DELIVERING US TO THE SITE.
PIP GETS TO GO WITH YOU?!
MR. DIPLOMACY HIMSELF!
AS SOON AS HE DROPS US OFF, PIP WILL RETURN HERE.
WHAT'S WRONG?!
EMBARRASSED TO BE SEEN WITH ME?!
YOUR FREEWHEELING STYLE COULD PROVE DISASTROUS IN THIS MATTER.
I SUSPECT THERE IS MORE TO SENATOR MUNSON THAN MEETS THE EYE.
AND IF MY SUSPICIONS ARE CONFIRMED, THIS WILL MOST DEFINITELY PROVE A DELICATE OPERATION.
JUST WHERE IS IT YOU'RE PLANNING ON BAGGING THIS BAD GUY?
THE U.N. BUILDING, NEW YORK CITY.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER...
AT THIS TIME SPECIAL DELEGATE SENATOR KYLE MUNSON OF THE UNITED STATES HAS THE FLOOR.
HE HAS VITAL INFORMATION HE WISHES TO SHARE WITH YOU AND YOUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.
MORE OMINOUS WARNINGS ABOUT THE CHAP WARLOCK AND HIS CROWD, I SUPPOSE.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND SENATOR MUNSON'S CONCERN WITH THIS INFINITY WATCH.
DID THEY NOT PROVE INVALUABLE ALLIES AGAINST SOME TYPE OF INTERGALACTIC THREAT A FEW MONTHS BACK?*
*INFINITY CRUSADE #1-#6.--CRAIG
YES. BUT SINCE THEN, THE WATCH HAS TEAMED UP WITH THAT NEFARIOUS LITTLE CRETIN, THE MOLE MAN.
APPARENTLY, THEY LIVE ON SOME ISLAND HE GAVE THEM.
THAT MUST BE THE ISLAND MUNSON HAS BEEN BUSY LOBBYING THE U.N. TO SEIZE.
SO THAT THE MOLE MAN HAS NO SURFACE BASE OF OPERATIONS.
SOUNDS LIKE A VERY TRICKY BIT OF BUSINESS.
YES, BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIRE MUNSON'S NERVE STANDING UP TO THOSE SUPER-POWER TYPES.

MY FELLOW DELEGATES, I COME TO YOU THIS DAY WITH EXTREMELY SAD TIDINGS.
YESTERDAY A CONTINGENT OF AVENGERS WERE DEPLOYED TO MONSTER ISLE TO EVACUATE OR EVICT ALL PERSONNEL FROM THAT RESTRICTED AREA.
IN THE LAST COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE AVENGERS IT WAS REPORTED...
...THEY WERE ABOUT TO ENGAGE THE INFINITY WATCH IN BATTLE.
TRY AS WE MIGHT, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THESE BRAVE ADVENTURERS SINCE THAT TIME.
SADLY, WE MUST CONCLUDE THAT THESE VALIANT HEROES WERE DEFEATED IN THE ENGAGEMENT.
THEY WOULD SURELY HAVE CONTACTED MY OFFICE IF THEY YET LIVED.
THE AVENGERS KILLED BY ALIEN FILTH!?
AN OUTRAGE!
UNBELIEVABLE!
SENATOR, DO YOU HAVE NAMES?
AMONG THE FALLEN WERE THE BLACK WIDOW, THUNDERSTRIKE, HERCULES, GIANT MAN, THE VISION AND THE HEROIC CAPTAIN AMERICA.
THEY WERE OUR FINEST.
THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN!
NOR WILL THEIR MURDERS GO UNPUNISHED!!

WHOSE DEATHS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SENATOR?
CAPTAIN AMERICA!?
THE VISION?!?
ALIVE!?!
AND NOT ALONE, SENATOR!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT, HONORABLE SIR...
IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND AS TO STEP AWAY FROM THE PODIUM FOR A MOMENT.
WARLOCK!
WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?!
MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AS YOU ALL MUST KNOW, I AM ADAM WARLOCK, HEAD OF THE INFINITY WATCH.
YOU ARE ALSO AWARE THAT I RECENTLY FORMED AN ALLIANCE WITH THE SUBTERRANEAN MONARCH, THE MOLE MAN.


HE GRANTED THE WATCH MONSTER ISLE TO USE AS A HOMEBASE.
I AM HERE TO CEMENT THIS CLAIM.
THIS AUGUST BODY WILL CEASE ITS EFFORTS TO EVICT US FROM OUR RIGHTFUL RESIDENCE.
SUCH EFFORTS ARE SURELY ILLEGAL AND HAVE ALREADY PROVEN FUTILE.*
* WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #14 AND #22. --CRAIG
THE MOLE MAN HAS AGREED TO NEVER AGAIN INVADE THE SURFACE WORLD.
HE NOW ONLY WISHES TO PROTECT WHAT IS JUSTLY HIS BY RIGHTS OF SOVEREIGNTY.
THE INFINITY WATCH HAS PLEDGED TO SAFEGUARD HIS STATUS AS HEAD OF AN INDEPENDENT NATION.
THE U.N. CHARTER DEMANDS THAT YOU, TOO, HONOR THIS STATUS, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE MOLE MAN'S EMPIRE LIES BENEATH YOUR FEET.
BETRAY THIS TRUST AND YOU WILL FIND THAT THE INFINITY WATCH CAN PROVE TO BE A NIGHTMARISH ENEMY.
OF ALL THE NERVE!!
DOES THIS BLIGHTER ACTUALLY THINK HE CAN THREATEN THE U.N.?!
I DO.
THIS IS INSANE AND AN OUTRAGE!
WE DON'T HAVE TO STAND FOR SUCH ARROGANCE!

CAPTAIN AMERICA, YOU AND THE VISION WILL IMMEDIATELY TAKE THIS MAN INTO CUSTODY.
I DON'T THINK SO, SENATOR.
THE AVENGERS FIND WARLOCK AND THE MOLE MAN'S CLAIM ON MONSTER ISLAND TO BE JUST AND HAVE INDEPENDENTLY DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE IT.
WE WILL NO LONGER BE TAKING ORDERS FROM YOU ON THIS MATTER.
YOU ARE NOT SENATOR MUNSON.
I SUSPECT THE REAL SENATOR IS PROBABLY DEAD.
LIES!
IF HE'S NOT MUNSON, WHO IS THIS MAN?
A VERY OLD ENEMY OF MINE -- THE MAN-BEAST!
CURSE YOU, WARLOCK!

THIS REVELATION CHANGES NOTHING, ONLY HASTENS YOUR DEMISE!
I'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS WITH MY OWN CLAWS!
A DIRECT FRONTAL ASSAULT, BEAST?!
HOW UNLIKE YOU!
TRIAX!
I COME TO YOUR AID, MASTER!
KA-WHAM!

NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE TODAY, VILLAIN!
THIS BATTLE IS STRICTLY BETWEEN YOU AND ME!
THAT IS FINE BY ME, YOU GLEAMING CRETIN!
YOUR DEATH BY MY HAND HAS LONG BEEN MY FONDEST WISH!
YOU STOLE FROM ME A WORLD I ONCE WISELY RULED!
YOUR SELF-RIGHTEOUS INTERFERENCE MADE ME A GALACTIC FUGITIVE!*
*WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #6. --CRAIG
FOR ALMOST A DECADE I HAVE DREAMED OF BLOOD RETRIBUTION FOR THE WRONGS YOU DID ME!
THAT GLORIOUS MOMENT IS NOW AT HAND!!
AND NO ONE WILL CHEAT ME OF THAT GOAL!

NO ONE!
KILL HIM, TRIAX!
TOGETHER WE CAN DESTROY THIS GOLDEN BUFFOON!
FOOLS!
WHEN LAST WE MET I WAS STILL BECOMING ACCUSTOMED TO THE FLESH I NOW EASILY WEAR.
I LACKED CONFIDENCE AND MY FIGHTING SKILLS WERE SADLY IN NEED OF SHARPENING.
BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.

VERY DIFFERENT!!
EMPTY WORDS TO MASK YOUR FEAR, WARLOCK!
YOUR FATE IS SEALED! I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN YOUR PHYSICAL SUPERIOR!
IS THAT SO?
HOW INTERESTING!

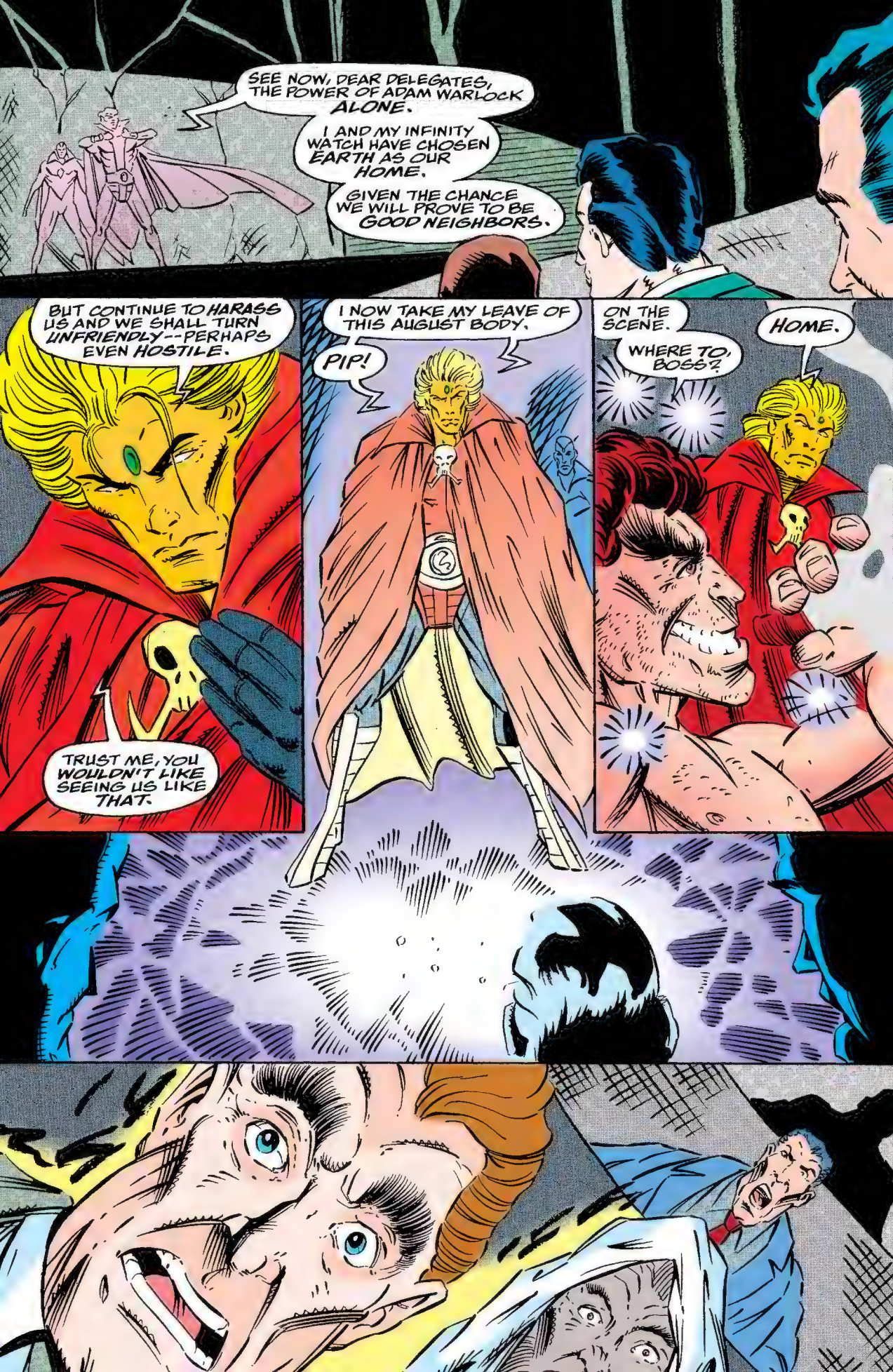
FEAR NOT, MASTER! TRIAX IS AT YOUR SIDE!
I SHALL CRUSH THIS INSECT WITH MY BARE HANDS!
EVEN AT MY WEAKEST, TRIAX, YOU WERE NO MATCH FOR ME!
INFINITE OPTIMISM?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK MATTERS WILL CONCLUDE IN ANY OTHER FASHION IN THIS ENCOUNTER??
BLIND STUPIDITY?
UNREALISTIC AMBITION?

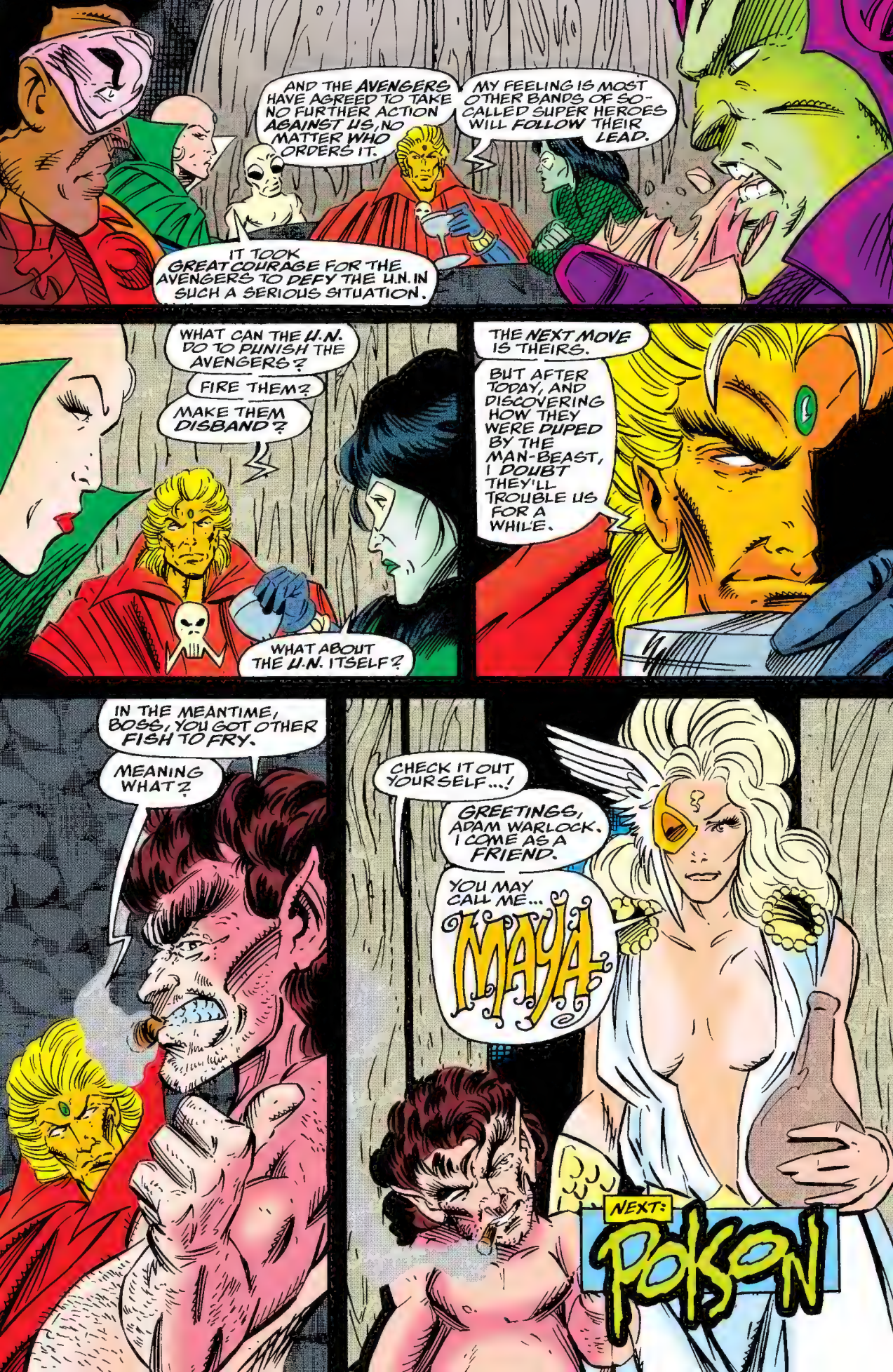
OR PERHAPS YOU'VE DISCOVERED A WAY TO SEE THE FUTURE?
SOMETHING LIKE GAMORA'S TIME VISIONS?
OR MAYBE READING TEA LEAVES?
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, TRIAX...
I FORGOT THAT READING IS NOT COUNTED AMONG YOUR HIGHLY VAUNTED POWERS.
SO, LET A KARMIC BLAST END THIS FARCE SO THAT I MAY RETURN TO THE REAL JOB AT HAND...
DEALING WITH MY TRUE ENEMY-- THE MAN-BEAST!

IN A DIMENSION MANY LAYERS FROM OUR OWN REALITY: COUNT ABYSS!
WHAT TRANSPIRES HERE?!
I CONJURE UP THIS IMAGE TO SEE HOW MY AGENT WAS PROGRESSING WITH OUR PLAN TO ACQUIRE ADAM'S SOUL GEM...
BUT INSTEAD OF FINDING MAYA WORKING HER WILES ON WARLOCK, I DISCOVER HIM BATTLING A GIANT WARTHOG!
WHERE IS MAYA?
CRYSTAL! SHOW HER TO ME!
SHE LAYS SLEEPING OR UNCONSCIOUS! HOW DID THIS TURN OF EVENTS COME TO BE?
AWAKEN, YOU MORONIC WENCH!
YOU HAVE WORK THAT NEEDS TENDING TO!!

THE MOMENT IS AT HAND, MAN-BEAST.
A POMPOUS BRAGGART TO THE END!
THE GLORIOUS MOMENT IN WHICH YOU SHALL PERISH, WARLOCK.
SINCE THE VERY DAY I TOOK MY CURRENT NAME YOU HAVE BEEN THE DARKER SIDE OF MY EXISTENCE...
...ALWAYS RETURNING TO CAUSE MISERY ANEW.
FOR THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY CREATED ME TO BE JUST THAT, A BALANCE TO THE LIGHT THAT YOU ARE.
HAVOC AND DESTRUCTION ARE THE LEGACY I ALWAYS LEAVE IN MY WAKE.
YOU ACTUALLY BOAST OF SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE VILLAINY?!?
BECAUSE I ACCEPT MY SHADOW AND CHERISH IT!
THERE CAN BE NO CREATION WITHOUT DESTRUCTION.
I AM AN INTRICATE FACET OF THE PATTERN OF REALITY!
LIKE CANCER.
LET THERE BE AN END TO YOUR INSANITY!

ENOUGH, WARLOCK!
YOU ARE GOING TO KILL HIM!
FOR THE GOOD OF THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE!
No!
THE U.S. HAS A SPECIAL PRISON FOR SUPER-VILLAINS.
THE MAN-BEAST WILL NEVER AGAIN BE A THREAT.
I PROMISE.
IT'S A MISTAKE, BUT... VERY WELL.


SEE NOW, DEAR DELEGATES, THE POWER OF ADAM WARLOCK ALONE.
I AND MY INFINITY WATCH HAVE CHOSEN EARTH AS OUR HOME.
GIVEN THE CHANCE WE WILL PROVE TO BE GOOD NEIGHBORS.
BUT CONTINUE TO HARASS US AND WE SHALL TURN UNFRIENDLY--PERHAPS EVEN HOSTILE.
TRUST ME, YOU WOULDN'T LIKE SEEING US LIKE THAT.
I NOW TAKE MY LEAVE OF THIS AUGUST BODY.
PIP!
ON THE SCENE.
WHERE TO, BOSS?
HOME.


AND THE AVENGERS HAVE AGREED TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION AGAINST US, NO MATTER WHO ORDERS IT.
MY FEELING IS MOST OTHER BANDS OF SO-CALLED SUPER HEROES WILL FOLLOW THEIR LEAD.
IT TOOK GREAT COURAGE FOR THE AVENGERS TO DEFY THE U.N. IN SUCH A SERIOUS SITUATION.
WHAT CAN THE U.N. DO TO PUNISH THE AVENGERS?
FIRE THEM?
MAKE THEM DISBAND?
WHAT ABOUT THE U.N. ITSELF?
THE NEXT MOVE IS THEIRS.
BUT AFTER TODAY, AND DISCOVERING HOW THEY WERE DUPED BY THE MAN-BEAST, I DOUBT THEY'LL TROUBLE US FOR A WHILE.
IN THE MEANTIME, BOSS, YOU GOT OTHER FISH TO FRY.
MEANING WHAT?
CHECK IT OUT YOURSELF...!
GREETINGS, ADAM WARLOCK. I COME AS A FRIEND.
YOU MAY CALL ME...
MAYA
NEXT:
POISON

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JUN
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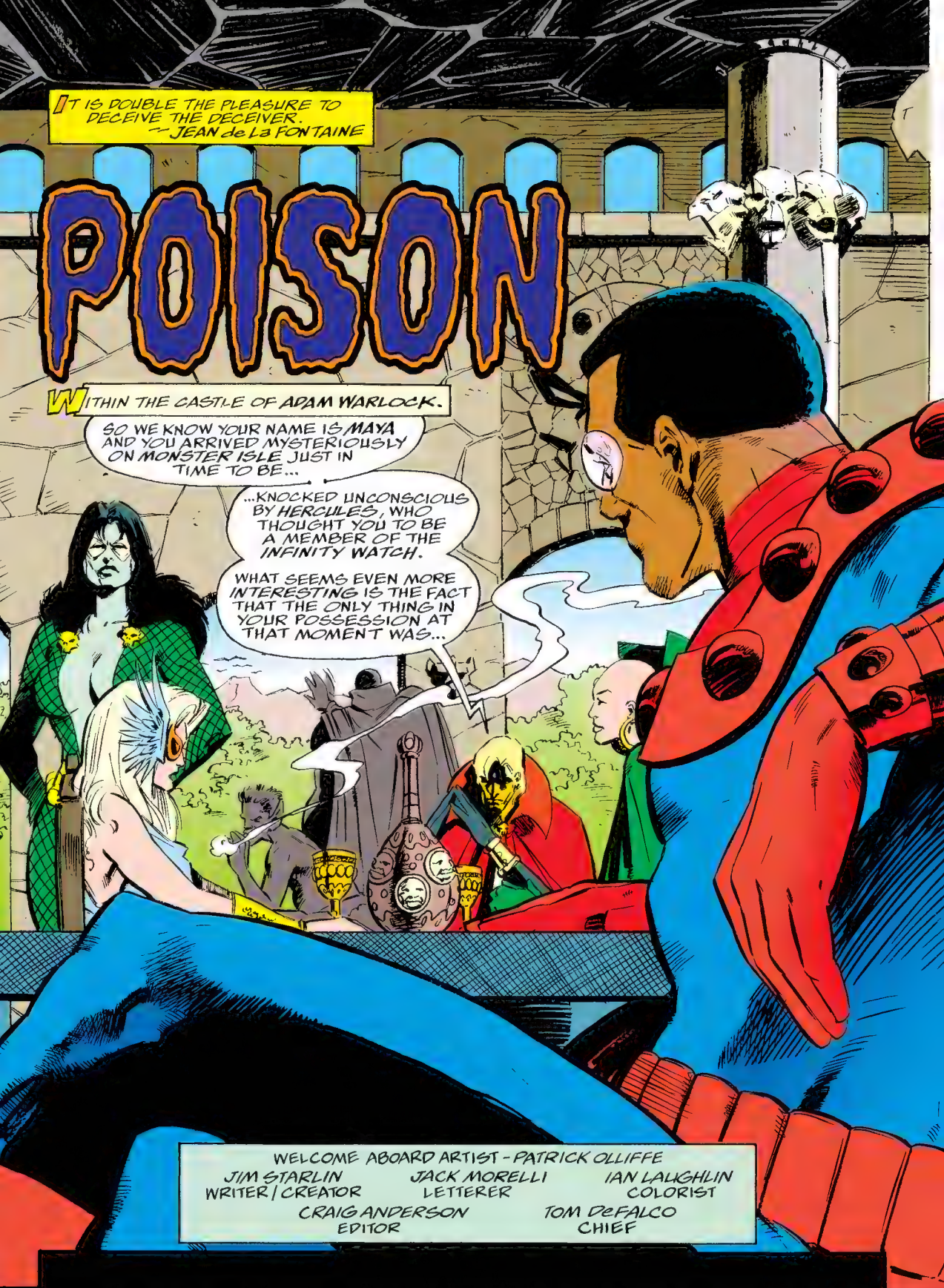
THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM THE VILE PLAN OF...
COUNT ABYSS!



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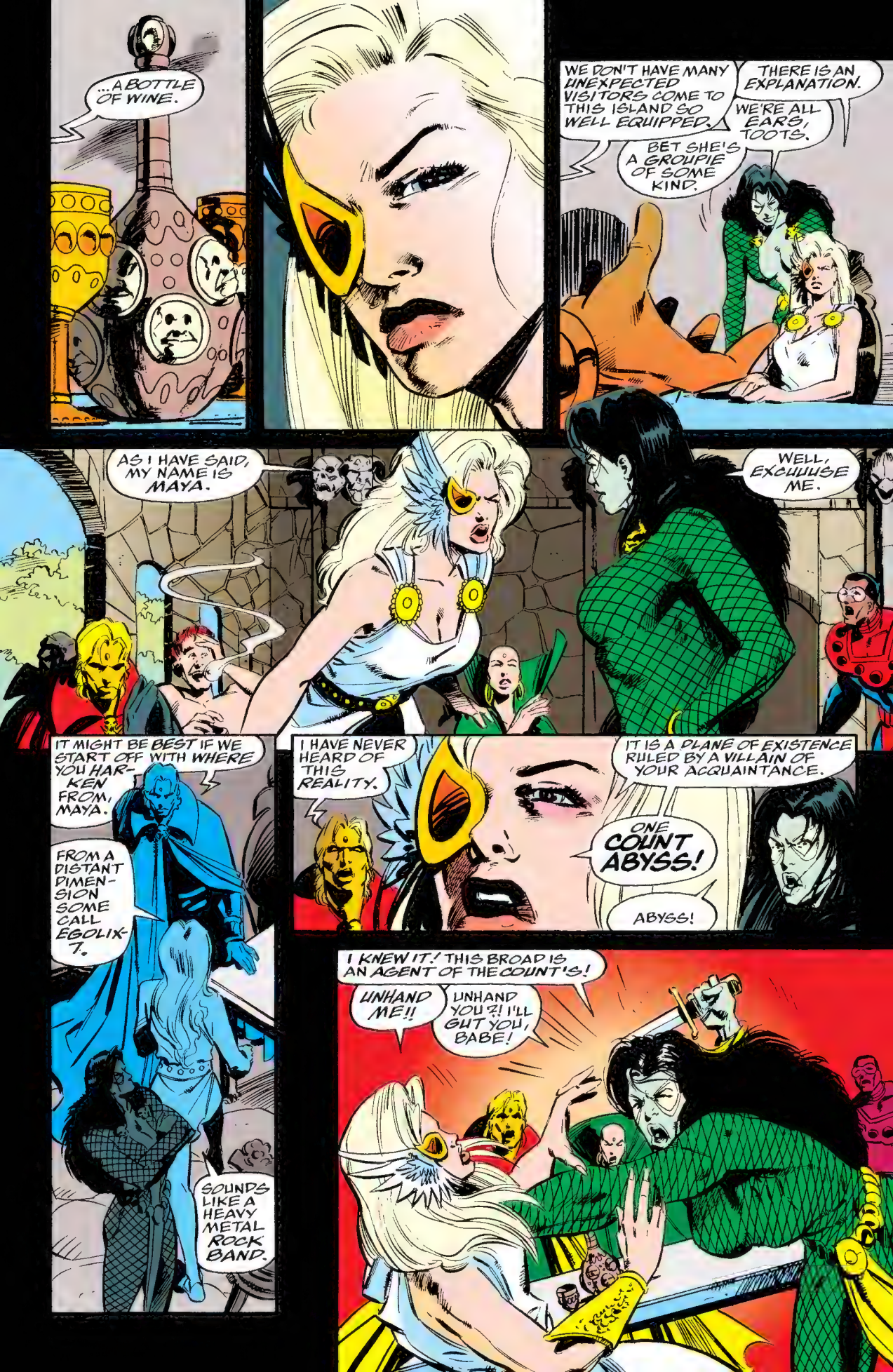
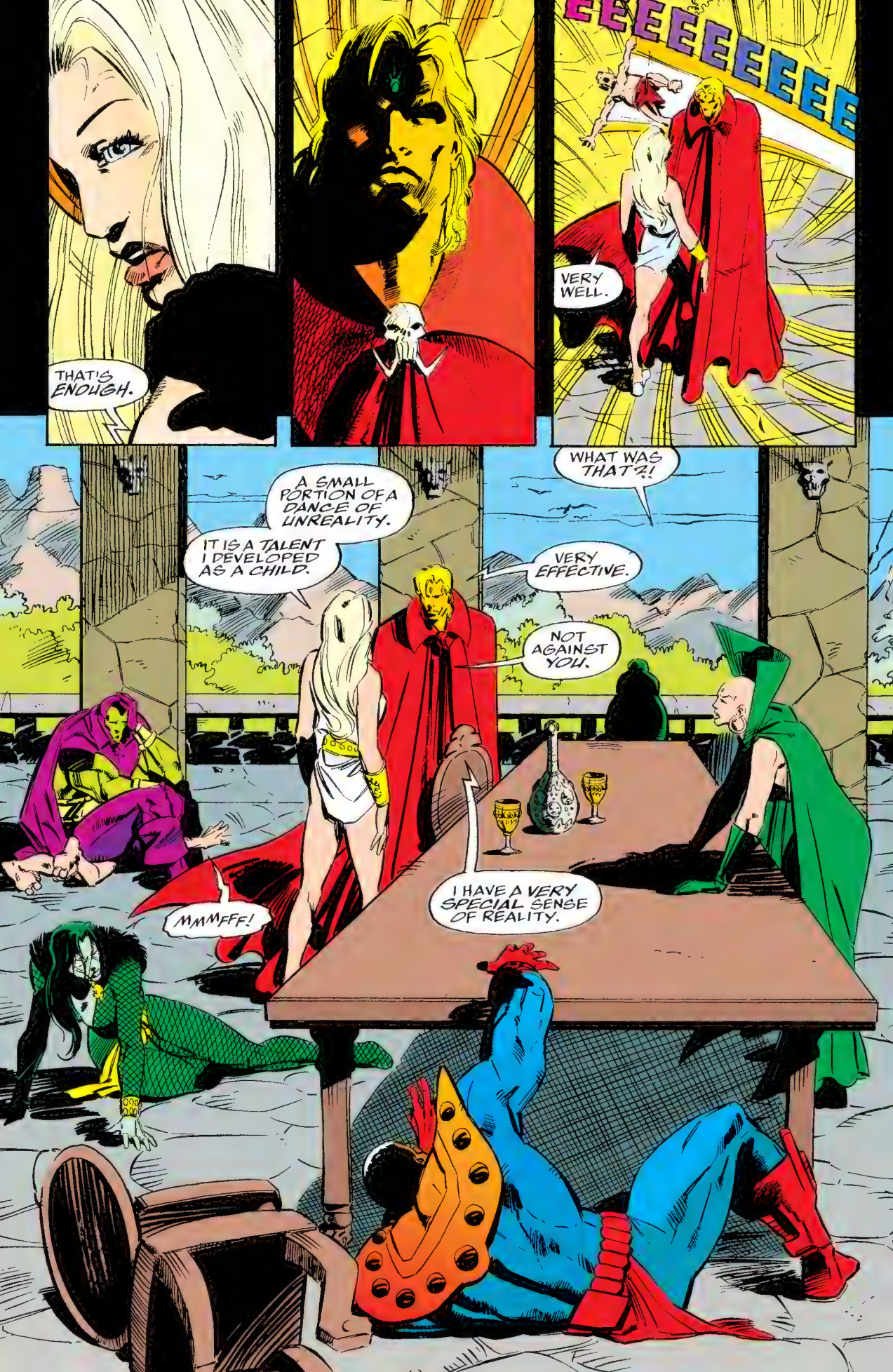

...A BOTTLE OF WINE.
WE DON'T HAVE MANY UNEXPECTED VISITORS COME TO THIS ISLAND SO WELL EQUIPPED.
THERE IS AN EXPLANATION.
WE'RE ALL EARS, TOOTS.
BET SHE'S A GROUPIE OF SOME KIND.
AS I HAVE SAID, MY NAME IS MAYA.
WELL, EXCUUUSE ME.
IT MIGHT BE BEST IF WE START OFF WITH WHERE YOU HAR-KEN FROM, MAYA.
FROM A DISTANT DIMEN-SION SOME CALL EGOLIX-T.
SOUNDS LIKE A HEAVY METAL ROCK BAND.
I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THIS REALITY.
IT IS A PLANE OF EXISTENCE RULED BY A VILLAIN OF YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
ONE COUNT ABYSS!
ABYSS!
I KNEW IT! THIS BROAD IS AN AGENT OF THE COUNT'S!
UNHAND ME!!
UNHAND YOU?! I'LL GUT YOU, BABE!

I DOUBT THAT.

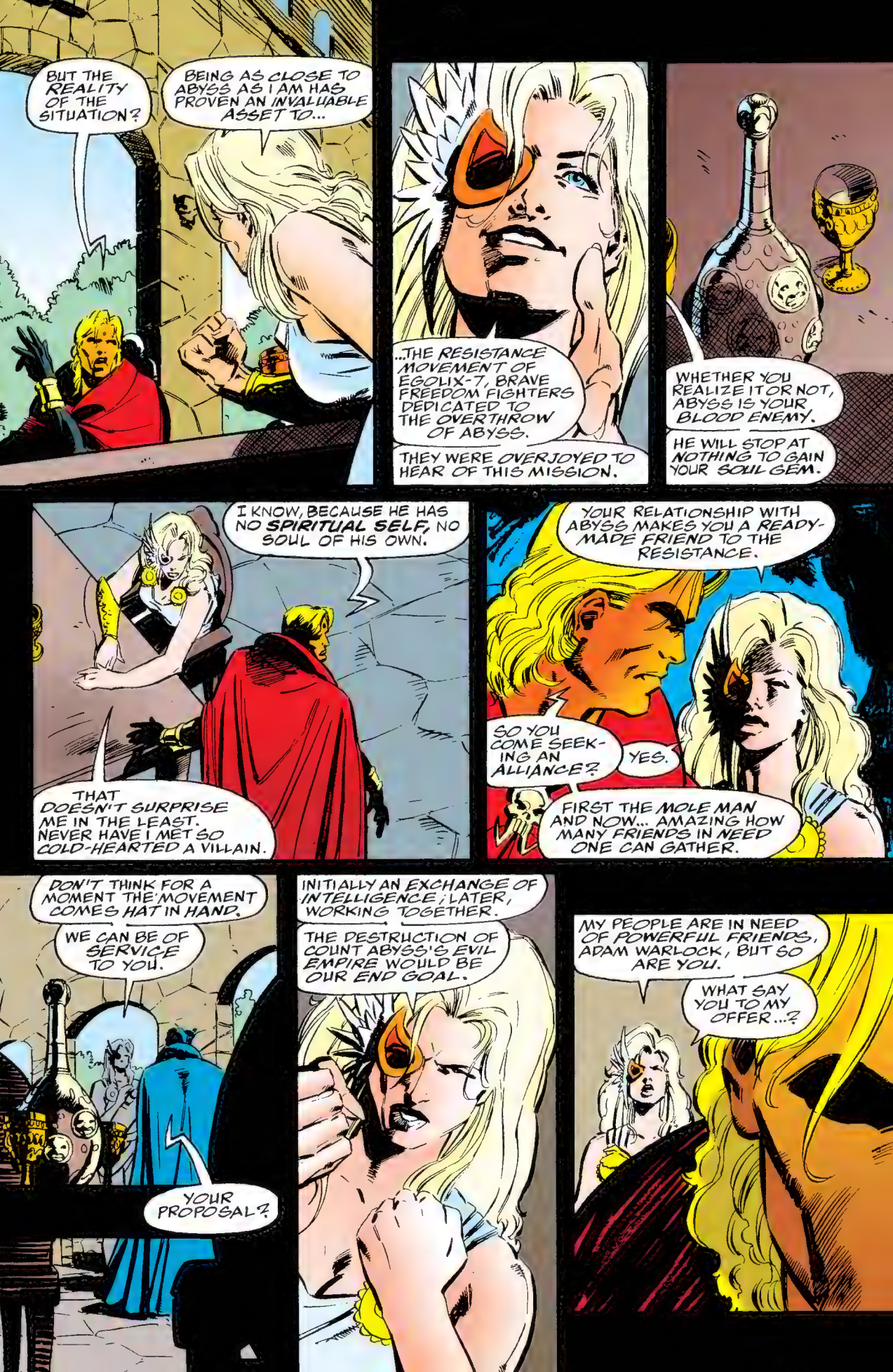
GO GET HER, GAMMY!

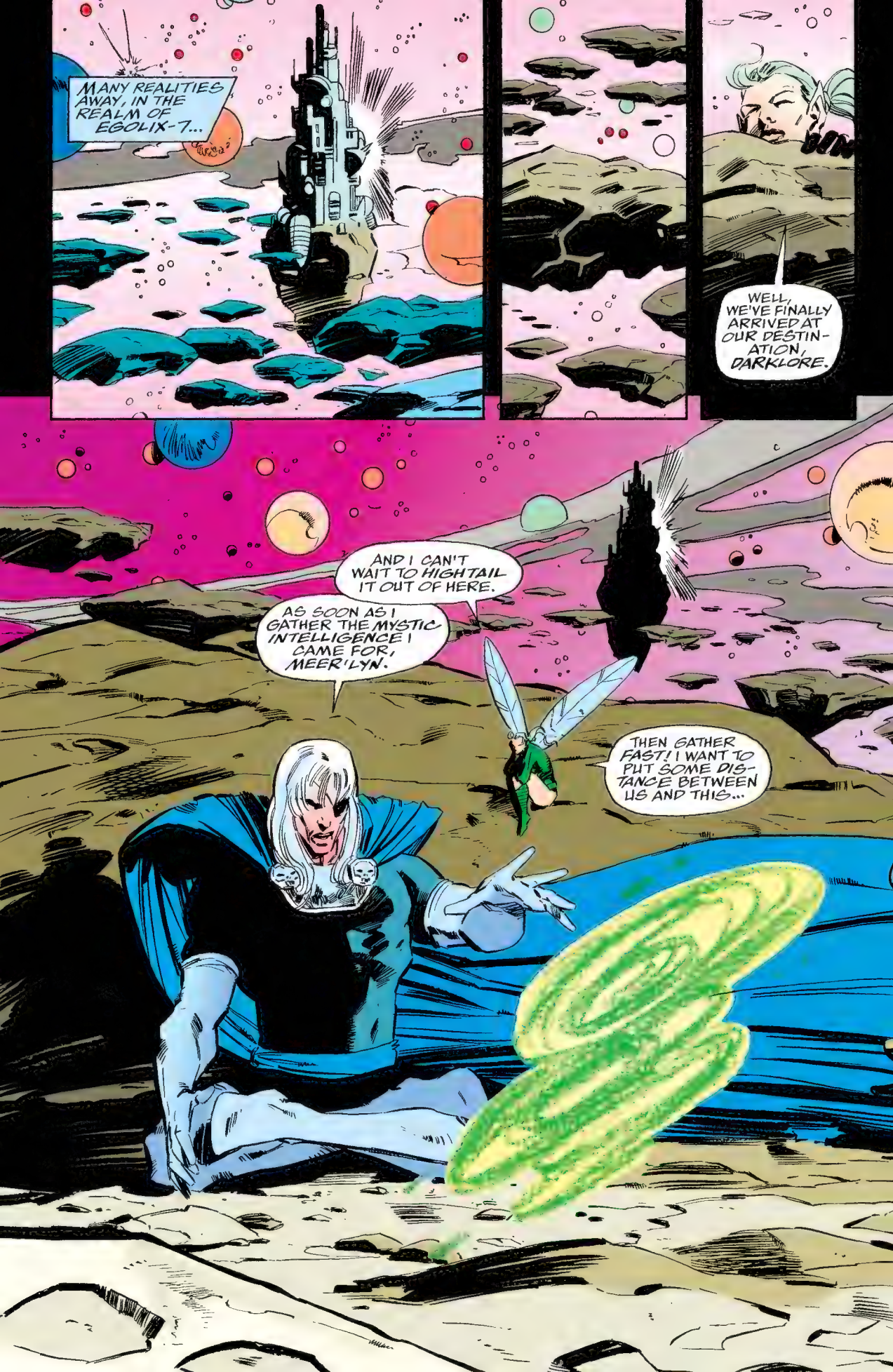

THAT'S ENOUGH.
EEEEEEEEE
VERY WELL.
WHAT WAS THAT?!
A SMALL PORTION OF A DANCE OF UNREALITY.
IT IS A TALENT I DEVELOPED AS A CHILD.
VERY EFFECTIVE.
NOT AGAINST YOU.
I HAVE A VERY SPECIAL SENSE OF REALITY.
MMMFFF!

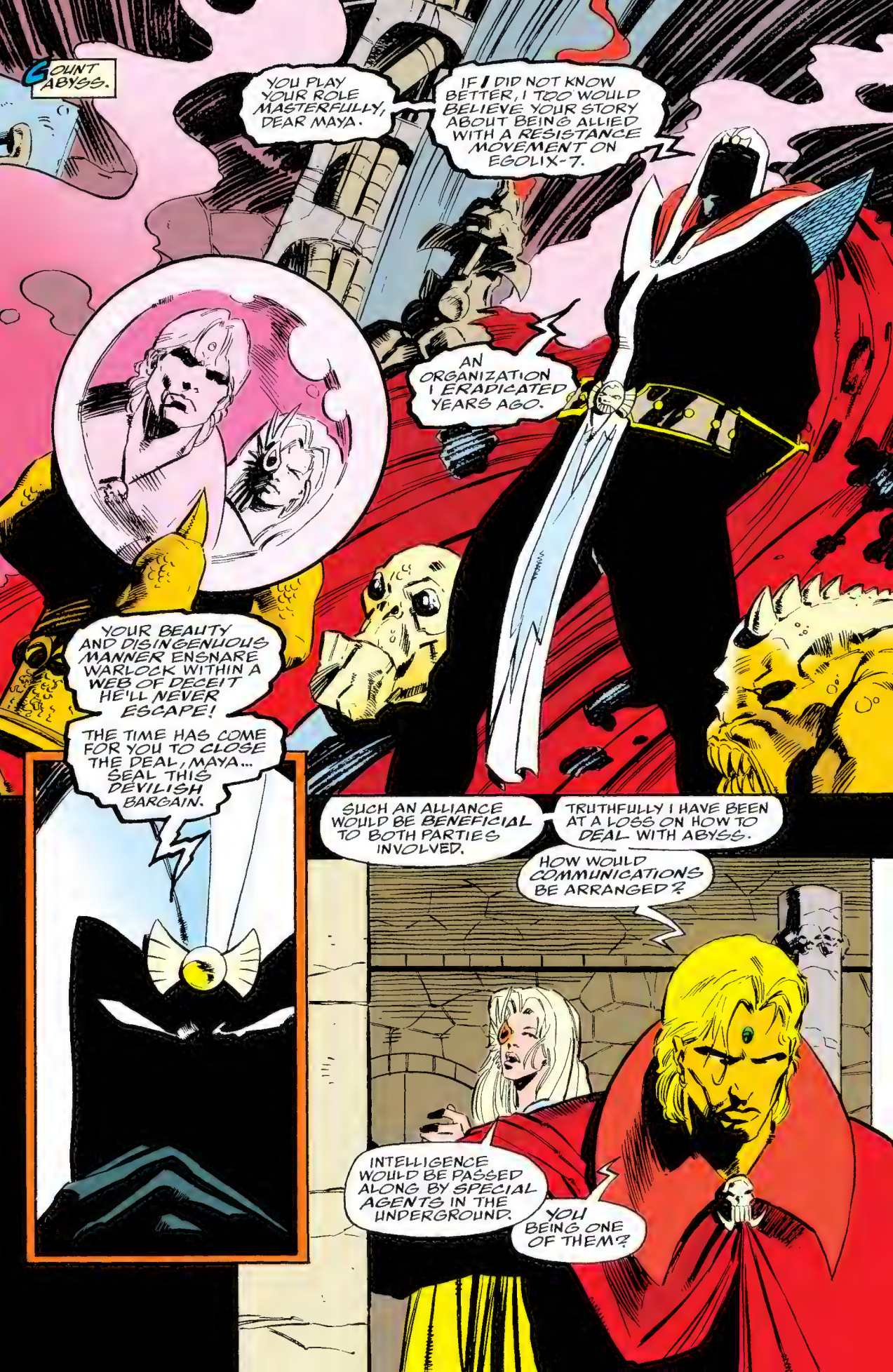
THAT WITCH! I'LL--
SETTLE DOWN OR YOU CAN LEAVE THIS CHAMBER.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
I AM.
PERHAPS, ADAM, IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU AND I SPOKE ALONE.
YES, THAT MIGHT MAKE FOR SMOOTHER COMMUNICATION.
IF THE REST OF YOU WILL EXCUSE US.
OOPS!
JUST FOR THE RECORD! I WANT IT KNOWN I DON'T LIKE THIS MOVE ONE LITTLE BIT!
WE'LL BE JUST OUTSIDE THE DOOR!
SO NOTED.
COME ALONG, GAMORA.

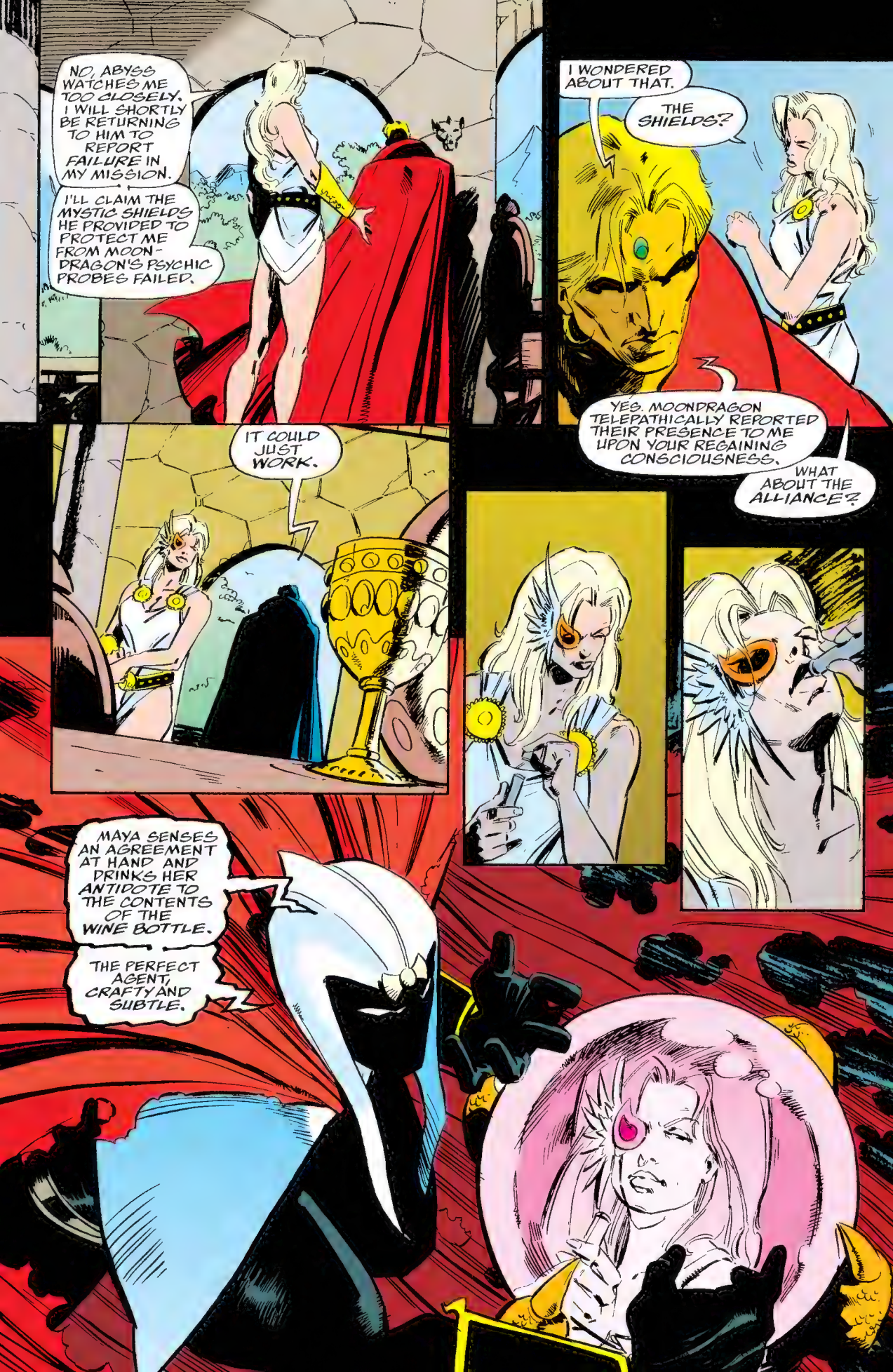
WHY GAMORA, YOU LOOK GREENER THAN USUAL THIS MORNIN'. I WONDER WHY?
JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT CRACK, SHRIMP?!
MY GUESS IS PIP'S REFERRING TO THIS OBVIOUS STREAK OF JEALOUSY YOU FEEL TOWARD OUR GUEST.
ME?! JEALOUS?!
YOU MALICIOUSLY ROTTEN LIL' RODENT! I'LL--
LATER, DOLL!
JEALOUS?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
NOW THAT WE ARE ALONE...
I APPRECIATE THIS COURTESY, ADAM...
MY STORY AND THE REASONS FOR MY COMING HERE ARE NOT EASY TO TELL.
ESPECIALLY AS HOW YOUR EMERALD FRIEND WAS CORRECT.
I AM AN AGENT OF COUNT ABYSS!

PLEASE CONTINUE.
I WAS BORN OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF TERAXTOLA, THE RULING CLAN OF EGOLIX-7.
THEN NEARLY A DECADE PAST COUNT ABYSS CAME UPON OUR DIMEN-SION.
I WAS BUT A TEENAGER AT THE TIME.
SO MIGHTY IS HE THAT ABYSS HAD LITTLE TROUBLE CONQUERING OUR REALITY.
BUT TO LEGITIMIZE HIS CLAIM TO POWER ABYSS TOOK ME ON... AS HIS...
... CONSORT.
ARE YOU LOYAL TO ABYSS?
HE THINKS SO.
THAT IS WHY HE CHOSE ME FOR THIS MISSION... ORDERED ME TO BEFRIEND YOU.
I AM A SPY, SENT TO FERRET OUT YOUR EVERY WEAK-NESS.


BUT THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION?
BEING AS CLOSE TO ABYSS AS I AM HAS PROVEN AN INVALUABLE ASSET TO...
...THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT OF EGOLIX-7, BRAVE FREEDOM FIGHTERS DEDICATED TO THE OVERTHROW OF ABYSS.
THEY WERE OVERJOYED TO HEAR OF THIS MISSION.
WHETHER YOU REALIZE IT OR NOT, ABYSS IS YOUR BLOOD ENEMY.
HE WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO GAIN YOUR SOUL GEM.
I KNOW, BECAUSE HE HAS NO SPIRITUAL SELF, NO SOUL OF HIS OWN.
THAT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME IN THE LEAST. NEVER HAVE I MET SO COLD-HEARTED A VILLAIN.
YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ABYSS MAKES YOU A READY-MADE FRIEND TO THE RESISTANCE.
SO YOU COME SEEKING AN ALLIANCE?
YES.
FIRST THE MOLE MAN AND NOW... AMAZING HOW MANY FRIENDS IN NEED ONE CAN GATHER.
DON'T THINK FOR A MOMENT THE MOVEMENT COMES HAT IN HAND.
WE CAN BE OF SERVICE TO YOU.
YOUR PROPOSAL?
INITIALLY AN EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE; LATER, WORKING TOGETHER.
THE DESTRUCTION OF COUNT ABYSS'S EVIL EMPIRE WOULD BE OUR END GOAL.
MY PEOPLE ARE IN NEED OF POWERFUL FRIENDS, ADAM WARLOCK, BUT SO ARE YOU.
WHAT SAY YOU TO MY OFFER...?


MANY REALITIES AWAY, IN THE REALM OF EGOLIX-7...
WELL, WE'VE FINALLY ARRIVED AT OUR DESTINATION, DARKLORE.
AND I CAN'T WAIT TO HIGHTAIL IT OUT OF HERE.
AS SOON AS I GATHER THE MYSTIC INTELLIGENCE I CAME FOR, MEER'LYN.
THEN GATHER FAST! I WANT TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THIS...

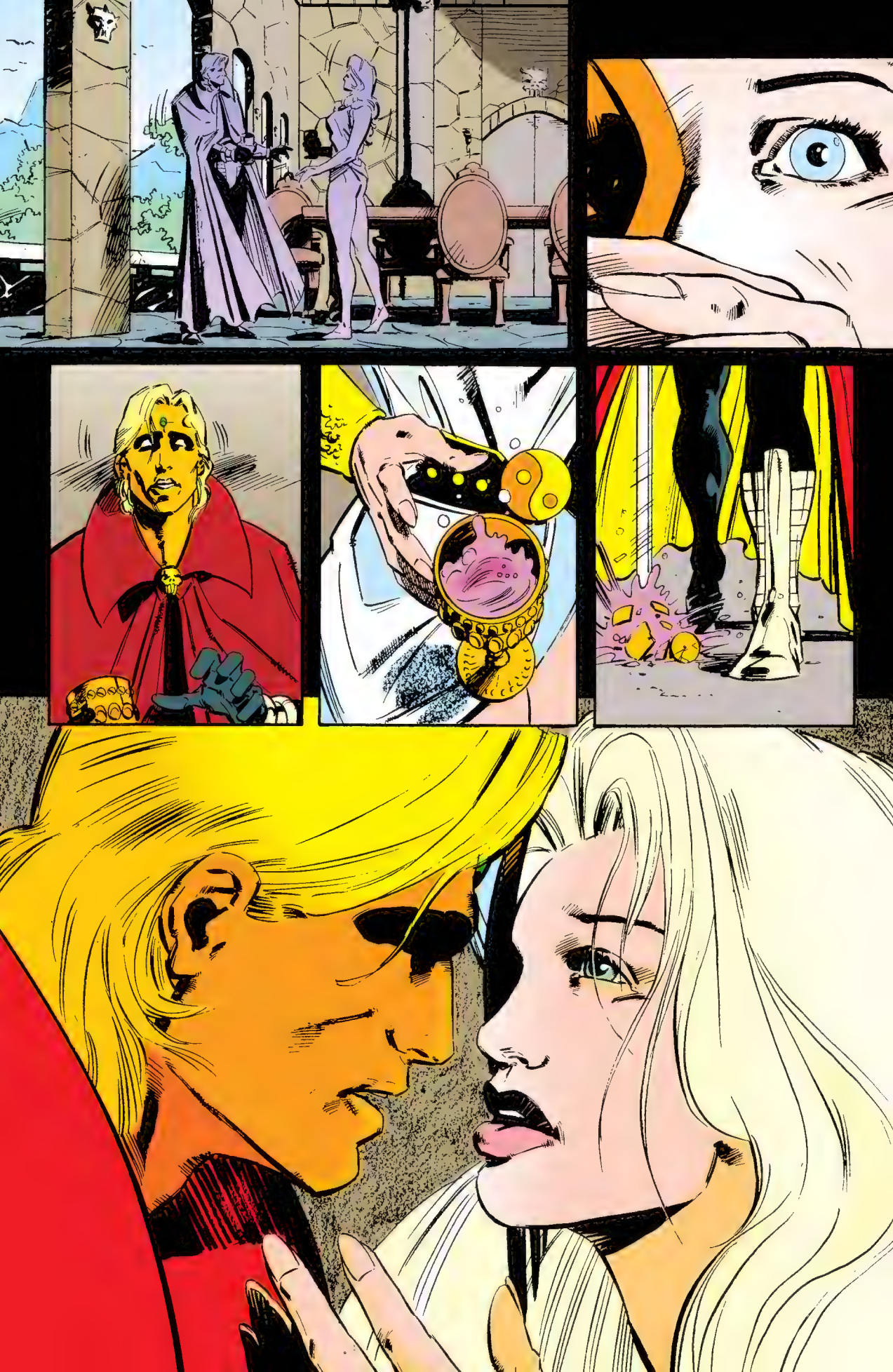

COUNT ABYSS.
YOU PLAY YOUR ROLE MASTERFULLY, DEAR MAYA.
IF I DID NOT KNOW BETTER, I TOO WOULD BELIEVE YOUR STORY ABOUT BEING ALLIED WITH A RESISTANCE MOVEMENT ON EGOLIX-7.
AN ORGANIZATION I ERADICATED YEARS AGO.
YOUR BEAUTY AND DISINGENUOUS MANNER ENSNARE WARLOCK WITHIN A WEB OF DECEIT HE'LL NEVER ESCAPE!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO CLOSE THE DEAL, MAYA... SEAL THIS DEVILISH BARGAIN.
SUCH AN ALLIANCE WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH PARTIES INVOLVED.
TRUTHFULLY I HAVE BEEN AT A LOSS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH ABYSS.
HOW WOULD COMMUNICATIONS BE ARRANGED?
INTELLIGENCE WOULD BE PASSED ALONG BY SPECIAL AGENTS IN THE UNDERGROUND.
YOU BEING ONE OF THEM?

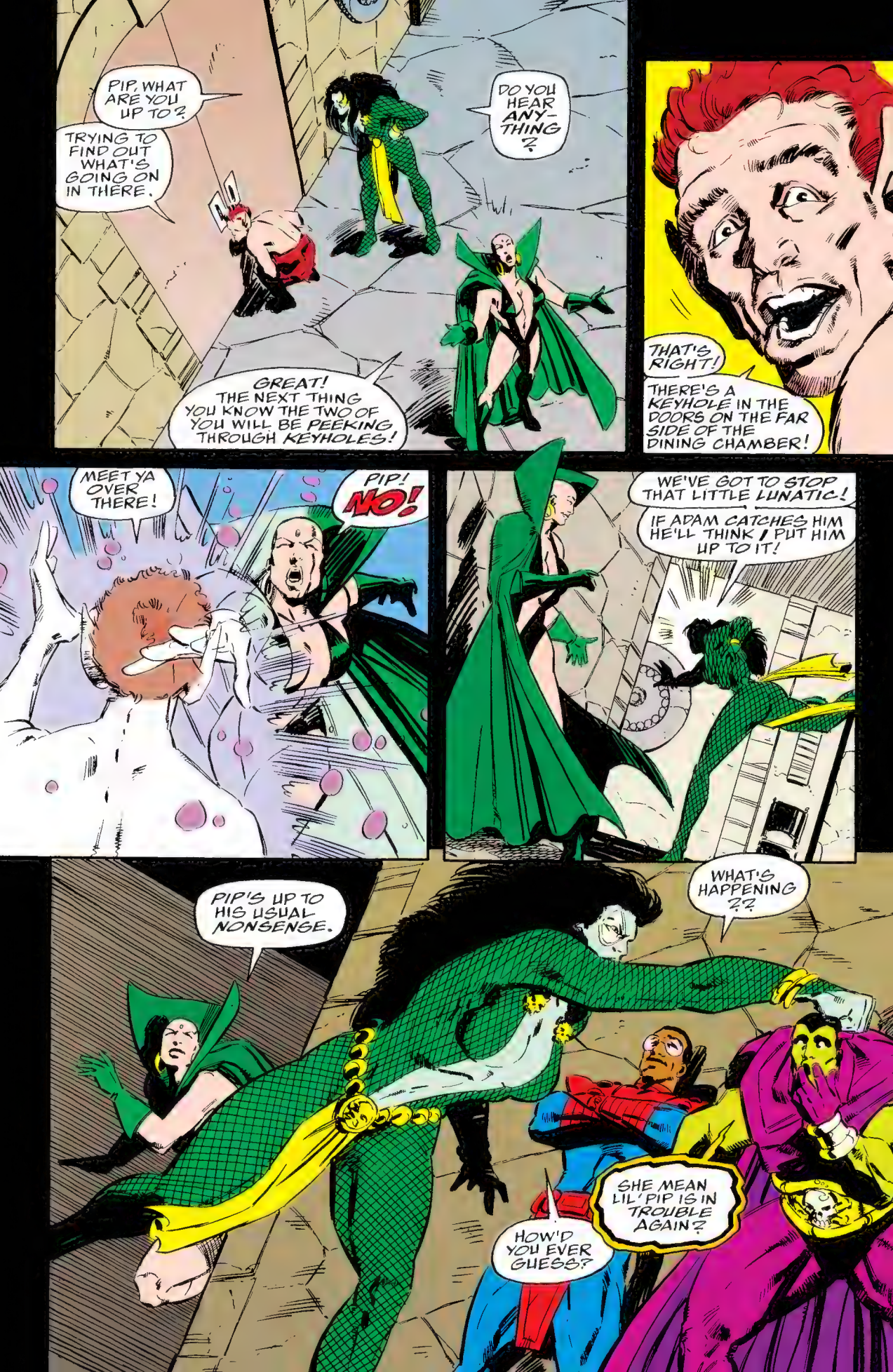

NO, ABYSS WATCHES ME TOO CLOSELY. I WILL SHORTLY BE RETURNING TO HIM TO REPORT FAILURE IN MY MISSION.
I'LL CLAIM THE MYSTIC SHIELDS HE PROVIDED TO PROTECT ME FROM MOON-DRAGON'S PSYCHIC PROBES FAILED.
I WONDERED ABOUT THAT.
THE SHIELDS?
YES. MOONDRAGON TELEPATHICALLY REPORTED THEIR PRESENCE TO ME UPON YOUR REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS.
WHAT ABOUT THE ALLIANCE?
IT COULD JUST WORK.
MAYA SENSES AN AGREEMENT AT HAND AND DRINKS HER ANTIDOTE TO THE CONTENTS OF THE WINE BOTTLE.
THE PERFECT AGENT, CRAFTY AND SUBTLE.

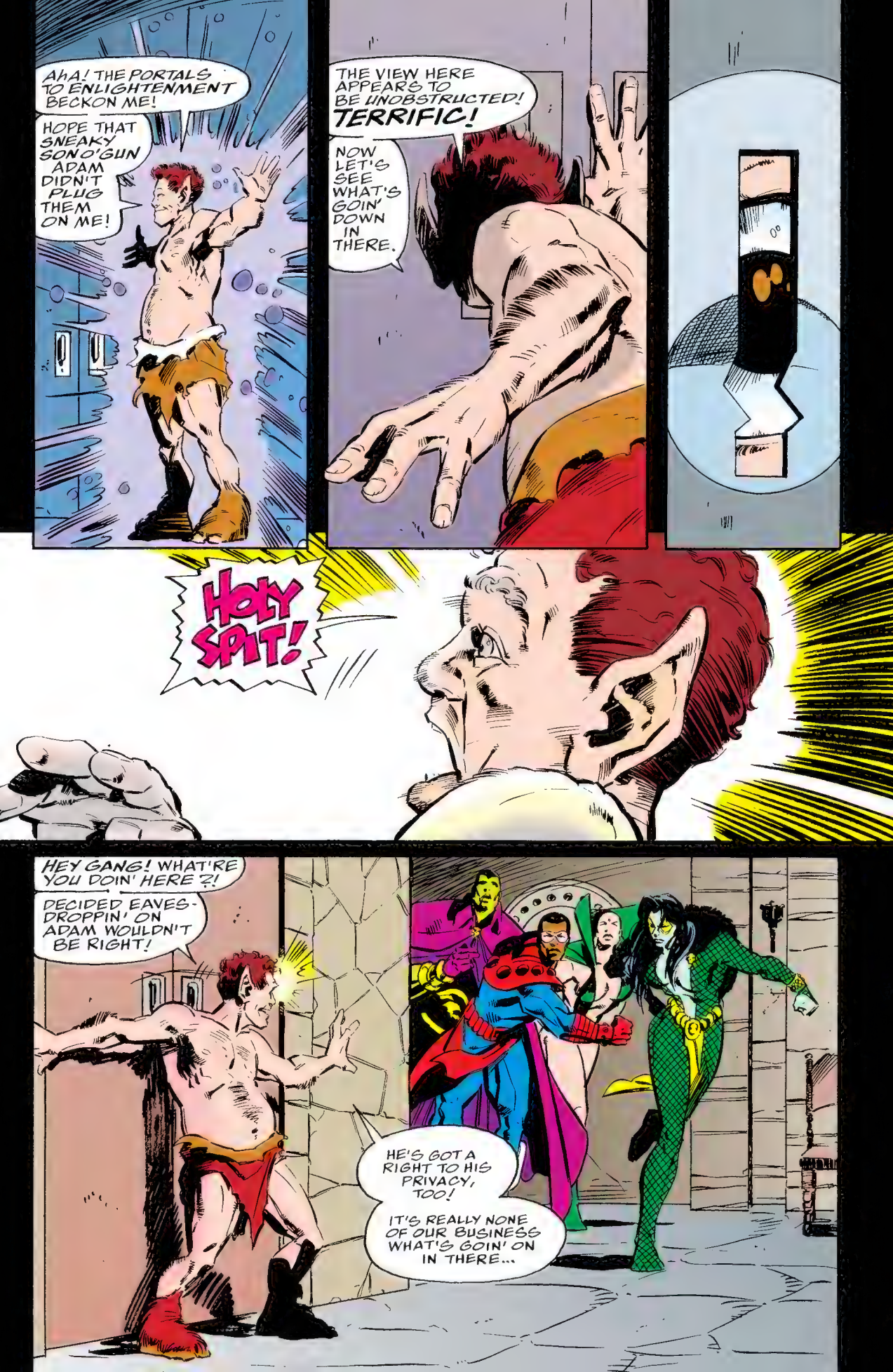
A PITY THAT ANTIDOTE IS MERELY A PLACEBO.
THERE IS NO CURE FOR THE MALADY LURKING IN THAT VESSEL.
MAYA, TOO, MUST FALL VICTIM TO ITS CURSE FOR MY PLAN TO WORK.
"IN ANY GAME A FEW PAWNS MUST BE SACRIFICED."
I AGREE TO THE UNION OF OUR FORCES.
LET US BE ALLIES.
THEN WE SHOULD SEAL THIS BARGAIN IN THE CENTURIES OLD TRADITION OF TOASTING IT WITH RARE AMBROSIAN ELIXIR.

YOU'LL FIND THE PIQUANCY OF THIS NECTAR LIKE NOTHING YOU HAVE EVER TASTED.
I DO NOT DRINK SPIRITS.
JUST A SIP THEN.
THE TOAST OF AGREEMENT IS A STRONG TRADITION AMONG MY PEOPLE, A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH AND TRUST.
VERY WELL.
A SIP.

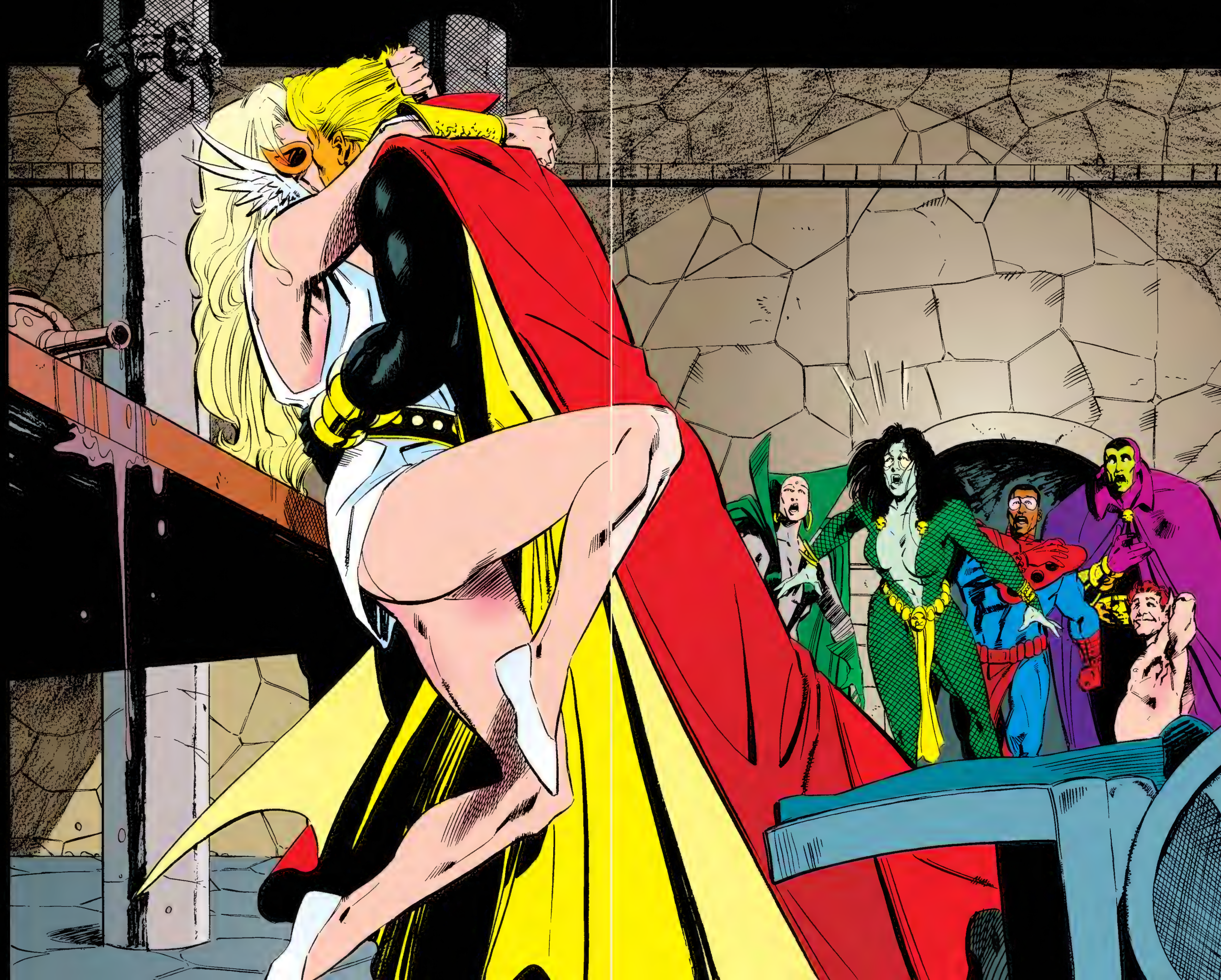
TO COUNT ABYSS'S DOWNFALL AND FREEDOM FOR EGOLIX-7.
YES, THIS I WILL DRINK TO.
KLINK
!wk!

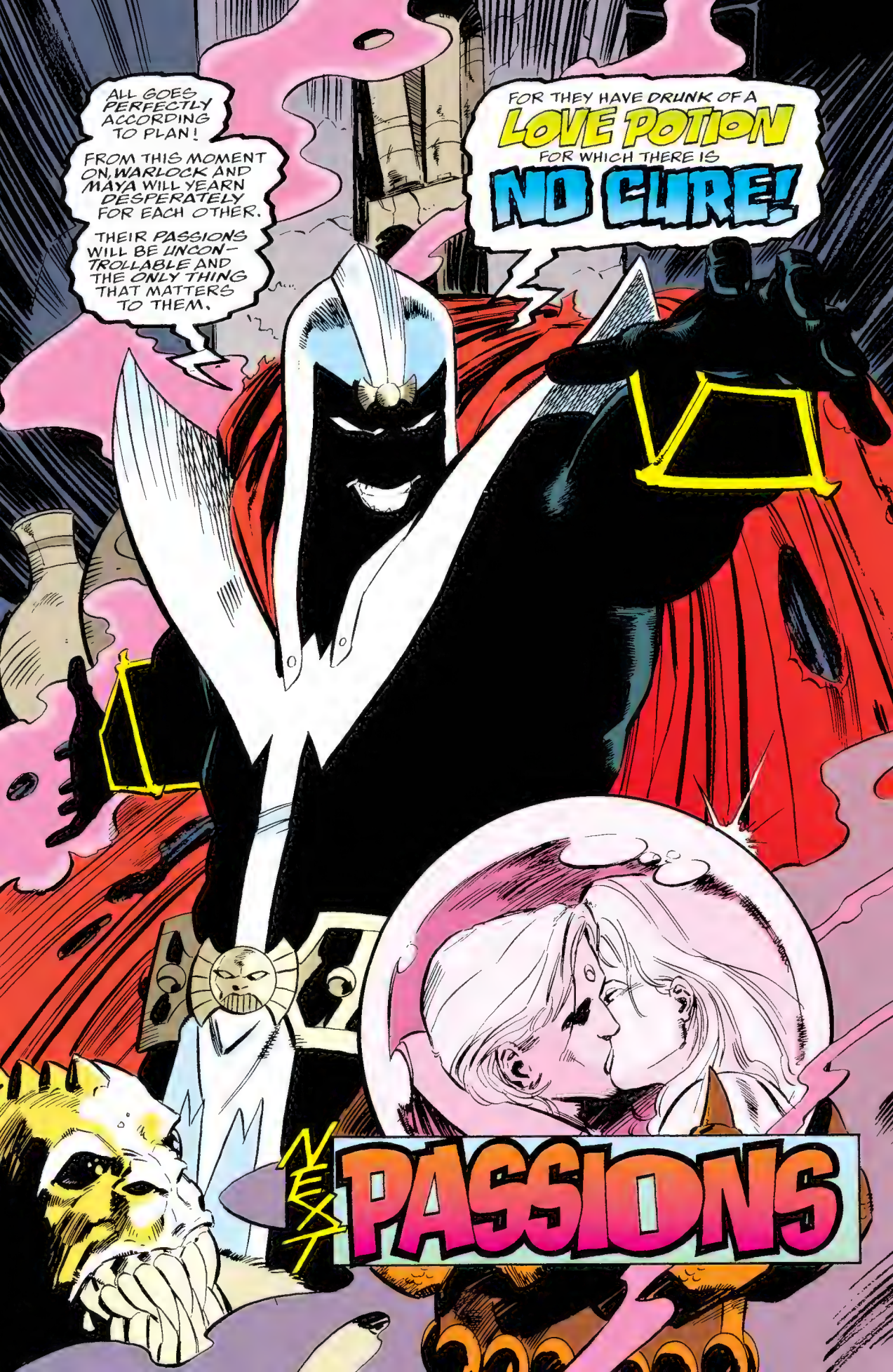



PIP, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE.
DO YOU HEAR ANY-THING?
GREAT! THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW THE TWO OF YOU WILL BE PEEKING THROUGH KEYHOLES!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THERE'S A KEYHOLE IN THE DOORS ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE DINING CHAMBER!
MEET YA OVER THERE!
PIP! NO!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THAT LITTLE LUNATIC!
IF ADAM CATCHES HIM HE'LL THINK I PUT HIM UP TO IT!
PIP'S UP TO HIS USUAL NONSENSE.
WHAT'S HAPPENING??
SHE MEAN LIL' PIP IS IN TROUBLE AGAIN?
HOW'D YOU EVER GUESS?


AHA! THE PORTALS TO ENLIGHTENMENT BECKON ME!
HOPE THAT SNEAKY SON O'GUN ADAM DIDN'T PLUG THEM ON ME!
THE VIEW HERE APPEARS TO BE UNOBSTRUCTED! TERRIFIC!
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN IN THERE.
HOLY SPIT!
HEY GANG! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?!
DECIDED EAVES-DROPPIN' ON ADAM WOULDN'T BE RIGHT!
HE'S GOT A RIGHT TO HIS PRIVACY, TOO!
IT'S REALLY NONE OF OUR BUSINESS WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN THERE...

GAMORA, YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO IN THERE.
THERE'S NOTHIN' INTERESTIN' HAPPENIN'.
ADAM AND THE BROAD AREN'T DOIN' NOTHIN'!
NO!




ALL GOES PERFECTLY ACCORDING TO PLAN!
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, WARLOCK AND MAYA WILL YEARN DESPERATELY FOR EACH OTHER.
THEIR PASSIONS WILL BE UNCONTROLLABLE AND THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS TO THEM.
FOR THEY HAVE DRUNK OF A LOVE POTION FOR WHICH THERE IS NO CURE!
NEXT PASSIONS

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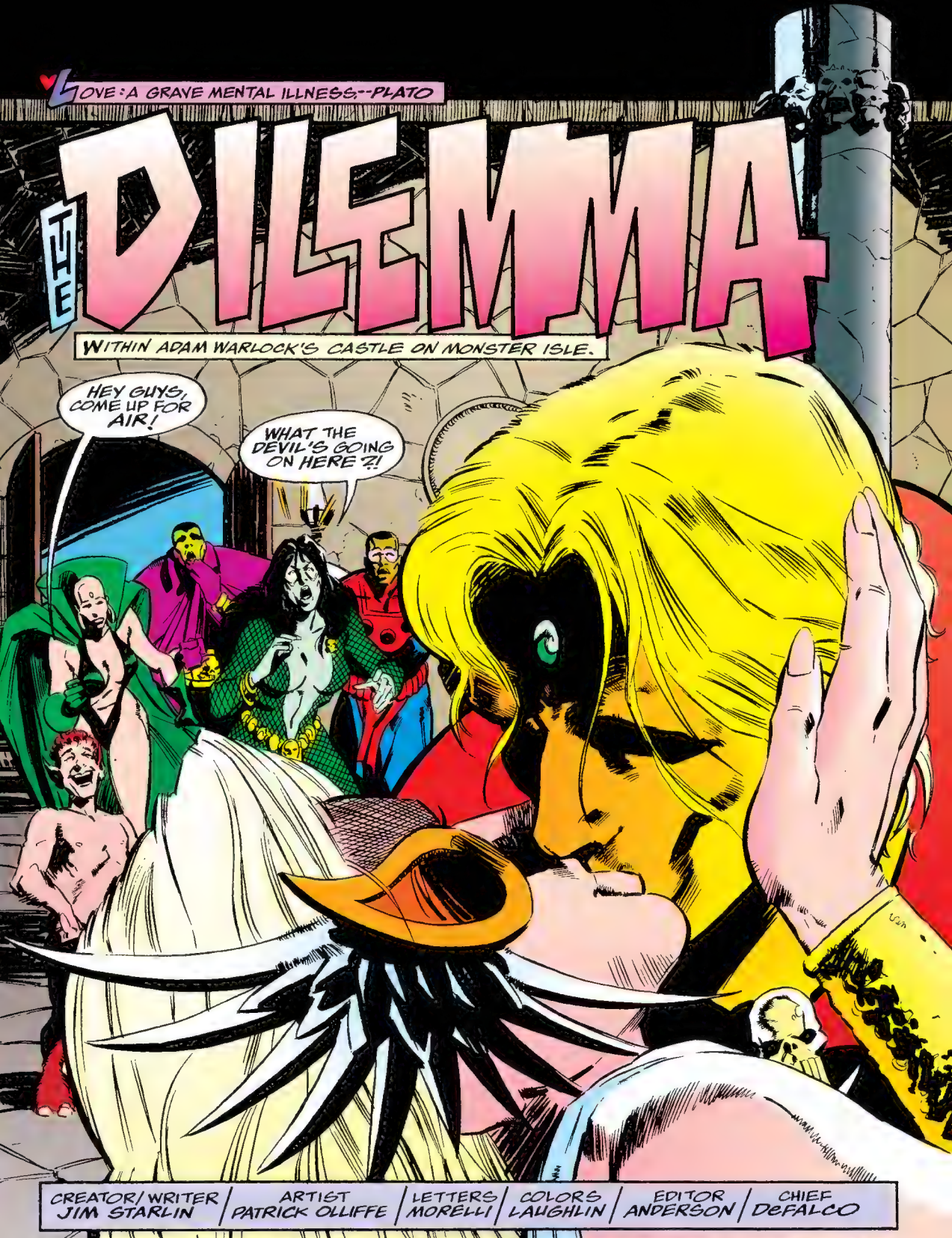
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH™
DEMONS!



CREATOR/WRITER JIM STARLIN | ARTIST PATRICK OLLIFFE | LETTERS MORELLI | COLORS LAUGHLIN | EDITOR ANDERSON | CHIEF DeFALCO

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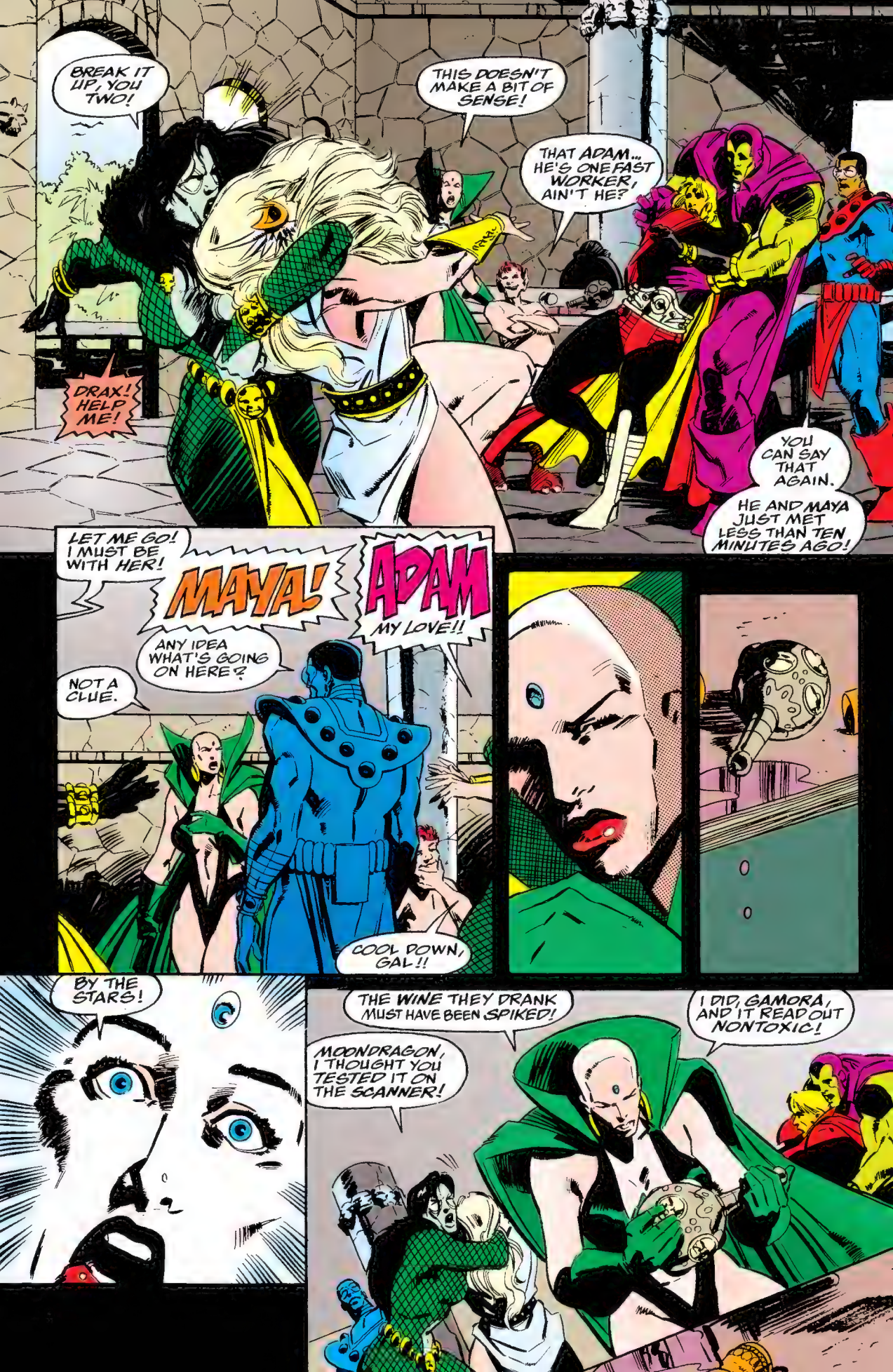
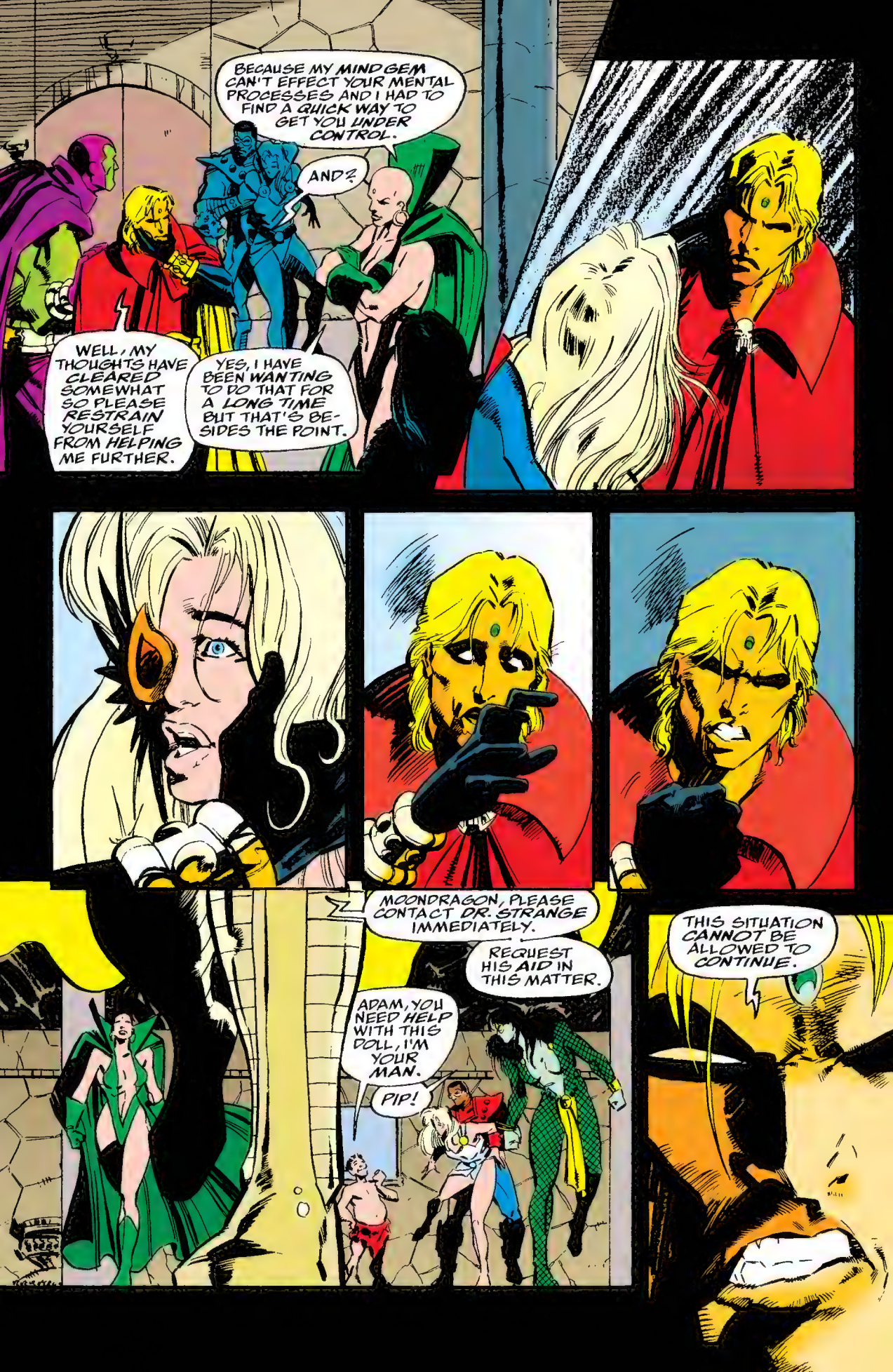
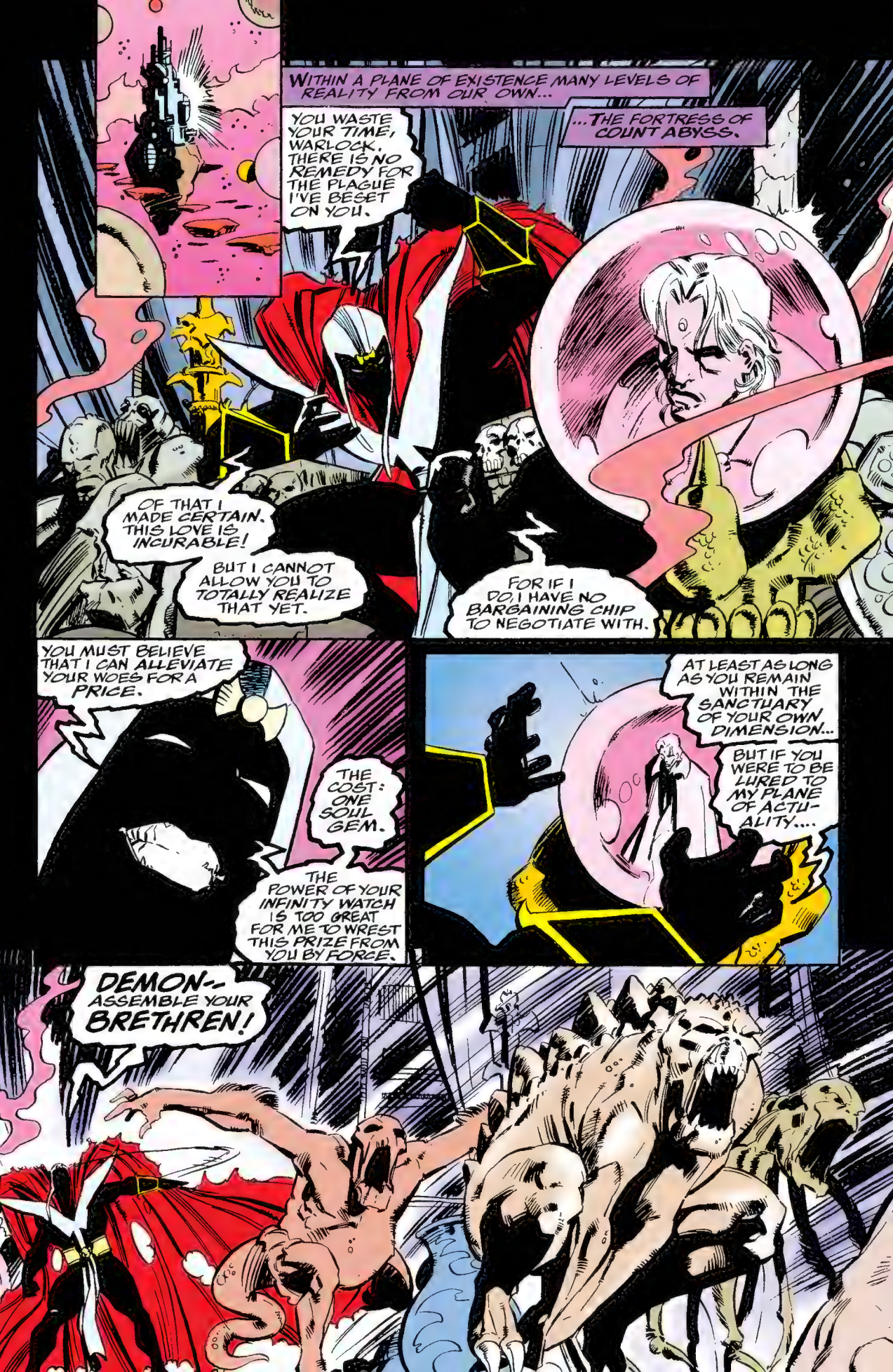
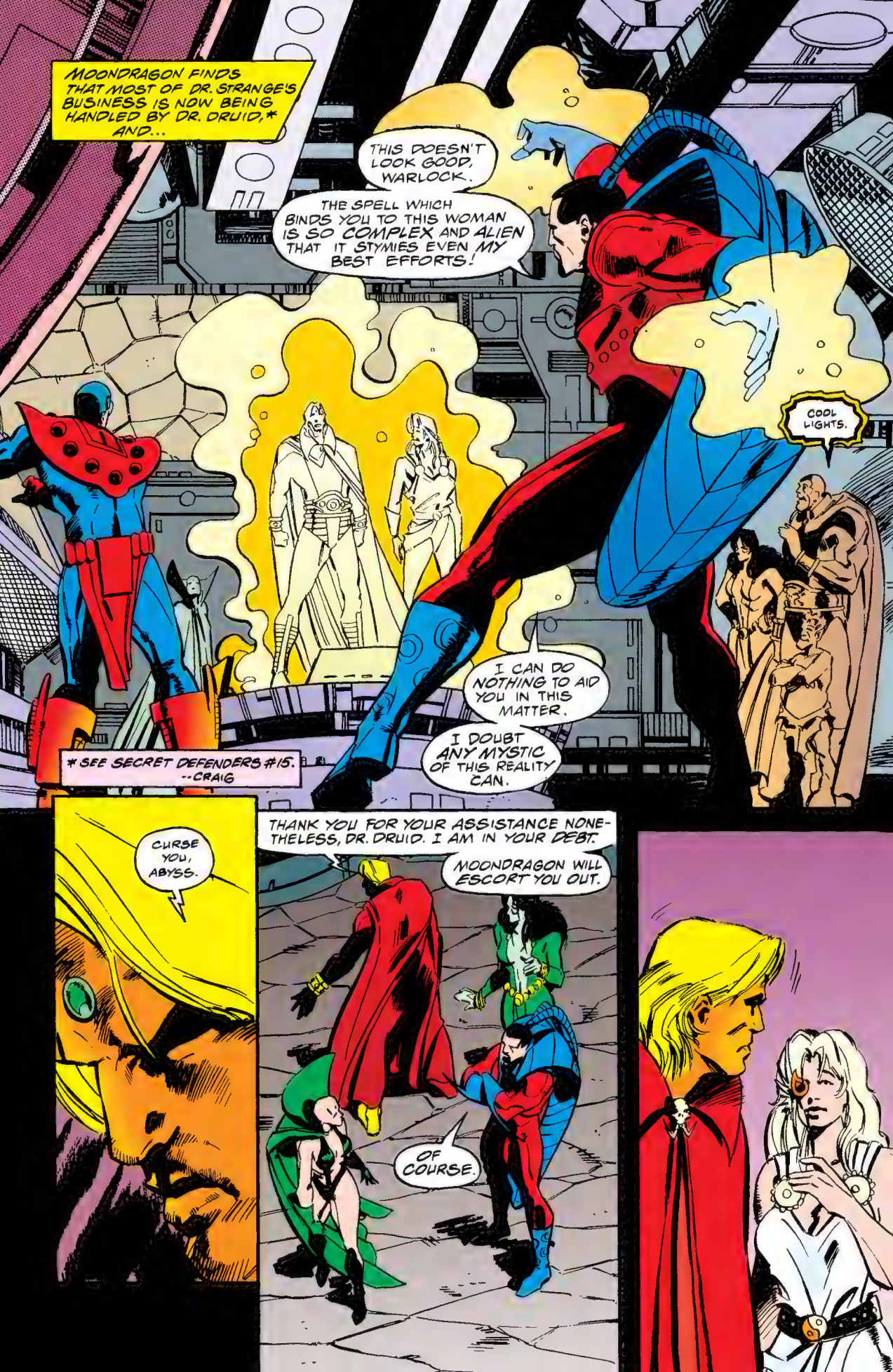

BREAK IT UP, YOU TWO!
THIS DOESN'T MAKE A BIT OF SENSE!
THAT ADAM... HE'S ONE FAST WORKER, AIN'T HE?
DRAX! HELP ME!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
HE AND MAYA JUST MET LESS THAN TEN MINUTES AGO!
LET ME GO! I MUST BE WITH HER!
MAYA!
ADAM
MY LOVE!!
ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
NOT A CLUE.
COOL DOWN, GAL!!
BY THE STARS!
THE WINE THEY DRANK MUST HAVE BEEN SPIKED!
MOONDRAGON, I THOUGHT YOU TESTED IT ON THE SCANNER!
I DID, GAMORA, AND IT READ OUT NONTOXIC!

MAX, HOLD THIS TRAMP.
MY PLEASURE.
THE TAMPERING WITH THE WINE MUST BE MYSTIC IN NATURE SO THE SCANNER JUST COULDN'T PICK UP ON IT.
COUNT ABYSS?
WHO ELSE?
THAT OTHER-DIMENSIONAL CRETIN HAS A LUST FOR ADAM'S SOUL GEM THAT KNOWS NO LIMIT.
SO WHAT'S THAT CREEP DONE? WHY'S ADAM ACTING LIKE THIS?
I THINK THE ANSWER TO BOTH QUESTIONS IS PRETTY OBVIOUS.
THE WINE CONTAINED SOME TYPE OF LOVE POTION!
YOU MISERABLE SNEAKY WITCH!
I'LL GUT YOU FOR THIS!
HUH?
YOU'LL SETTLE DOWN--AND BEHAVE YOURSELF; IS WHAT YOU'LL DO.

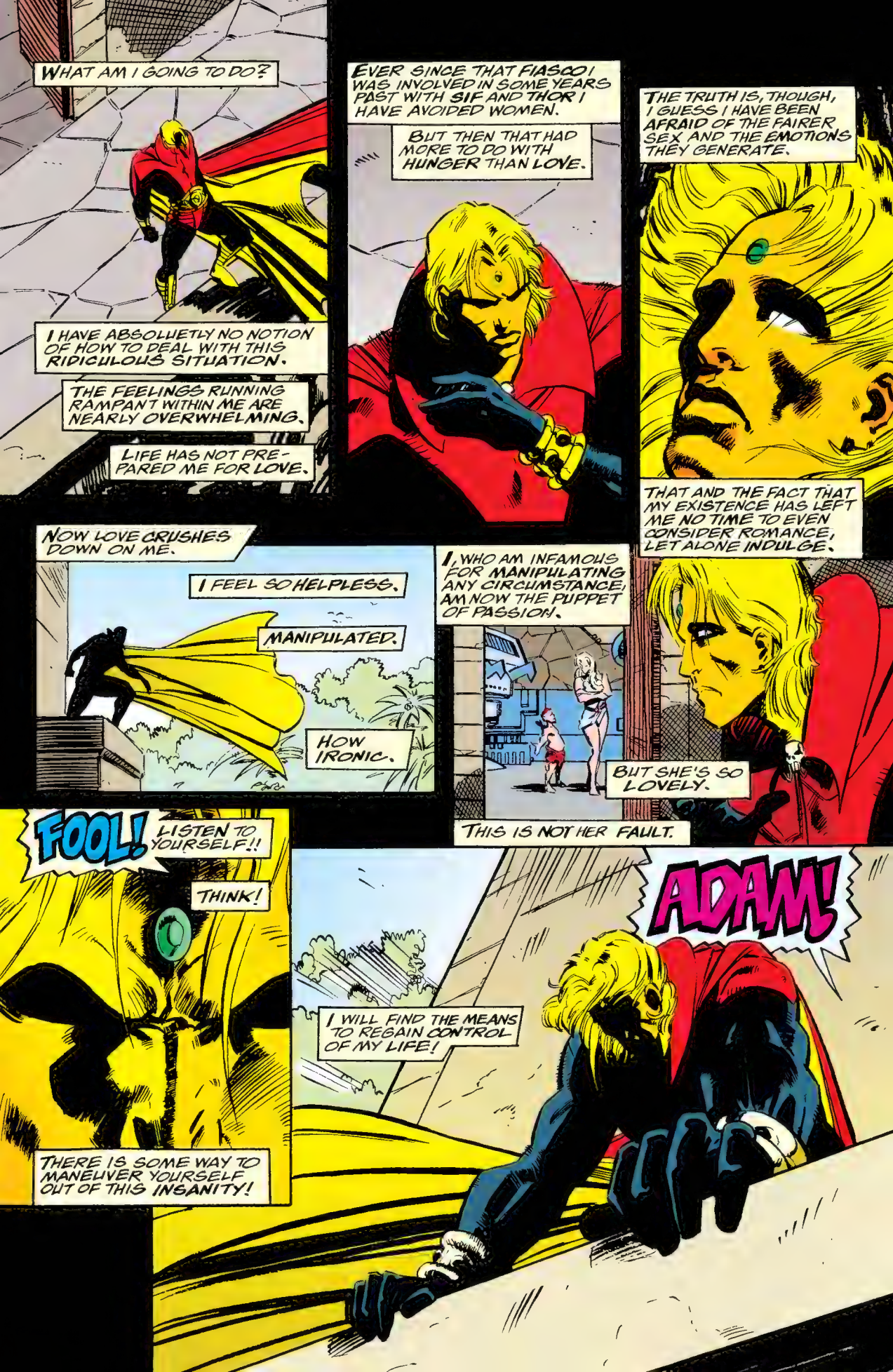
GAMORA, EVEN THROUGH YOUR JEALOUS RAGE YOU MUST SEE THAT MAYA IS AS ENTHRALLED BY THE POTION AS ADAM.
WE'RE DEALING HERE WITH TWO VICTIMS.
WHAT JEALOUS RAGE?
NEVER MIND.
SO WHAT DO WE DO?
SEE IF THIS MALADY HAS ANY CURE. BUT BEFORE WE CAN DO THAT...
...WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO DAMPEN DOWN THE FIRES OF UNCONTROLLED PASSION.
WE NEED TO GET ADAM'S MIND BACK ON TRACK.
IT'S A CLICHÉ, BUT WORTH A TRY.
WHY DID YOU HIT ME?


BECAUSE MY MIND GEM CAN'T EFFECT YOUR MENTAL PROCESSES AND I HAD TO FIND A QUICK WAY TO GET YOU UNDER CONTROL.
AND?
WELL, MY THOUGHTS HAVE CLEARED SOMEWHAT SO PLEASE RESTRAIN YOURSELF FROM HELPING ME FURTHER.
YES, I HAVE BEEN WANTING TO DO THAT FOR A LONG TIME BUT THAT'S BESIDES THE POINT.
MOONDRAGON, PLEASE CONTACT DR. STRANGE IMMEDIATELY.
REQUEST HIS AID IN THIS MATTER.
ADAM, YOU NEED HELP WITH THIS DOLL, I'M YOUR MAN.
PIP!
THIS SITUATION CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE.


WITHIN A PLANE OF EXISTENCE MANY LEVELS OF REALITY FROM OUR OWN...
...THE FORTRESS OF COUNT ABYSS.
YOU WASTE YOUR TIME, WARLOCK. THERE IS NO REMEDY FOR THE PLAGUE I'VE BESET ON YOU.
OF THAT I MADE CERTAIN. THIS LOVE IS INCURABLE!
BUT I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO TOTALLY REALIZE THAT YET.
FOR IF I DO, I HAVE NO BARGAINING CHIP TO NEGOTIATE WITH.
YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT I CAN ALLEVIATE YOUR WOES FOR A PRICE.
THE COST: ONE SOUL GEM.
THE POWER OF YOUR INFINITY WATCH IS TOO GREAT FOR ME TO WREST THIS PRIZE FROM YOU BY FORCE.
AT LEAST AS LONG AS YOU REMAIN WITHIN THE SANCTUARY OF YOUR OWN DIMENSION...
BUT IF YOU WERE TO BE LURED TO MY PLANE OF ACTUALITY....
DEMON-- ASSEMBLE YOUR BRETHREN!


MOONDRAGON FINDS THAT MOST OF DR. STRANGE'S BUSINESS IS NOW BEING HANDLED BY DR. DRUID,* AND...
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, WARLOCK.
THE SPELL WHICH BINDS YOU TO THIS WOMAN IS SO COMPLEX AND ALIEN THAT IT STYMIES EVEN MY BEST EFFORTS!
COOL LIGHTS.
I CAN DO NOTHING TO AID YOU IN THIS MATTER.
I DOUBT ANY MYSTIC OF THIS REALITY CAN.
* SEE SECRET DEFENDERS #15. --CRAIG
CURSE YOU, ABYSS.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE NONETHELESS, DR. DRUID. I AM IN YOUR DEBT.
MOONDRAGON WILL ESCORT YOU OUT.
OF COURSE.

YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT ABYSS WILL SURELY USE YOUR LOVE FOR MAYA AGAINST YOU IN SOME FASHION.
YES.
THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER.
I VOTE TO SLIT THE TROLLOP'S THROAT AND THWART ABYSS'S PLAN.
GAMORA, DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT BLOODLETTING IS THE ANSWER TO EVERY PROBLEM?
NO, BUT...
SO FOOLISH...
LEAVE IT, GIRL.
GAMORA, YOU KNOW YOU CAN BE INCREDIBLY STUPID WHEN YOU SET YOUR MIND TO IT.
ADAM'S REALLY IN LOVE WITH THE WOMAN.
I KNOW.
CURSE HIM!
YET ANOTHER VICTIM OF CUPID'S DEADLY AIM.

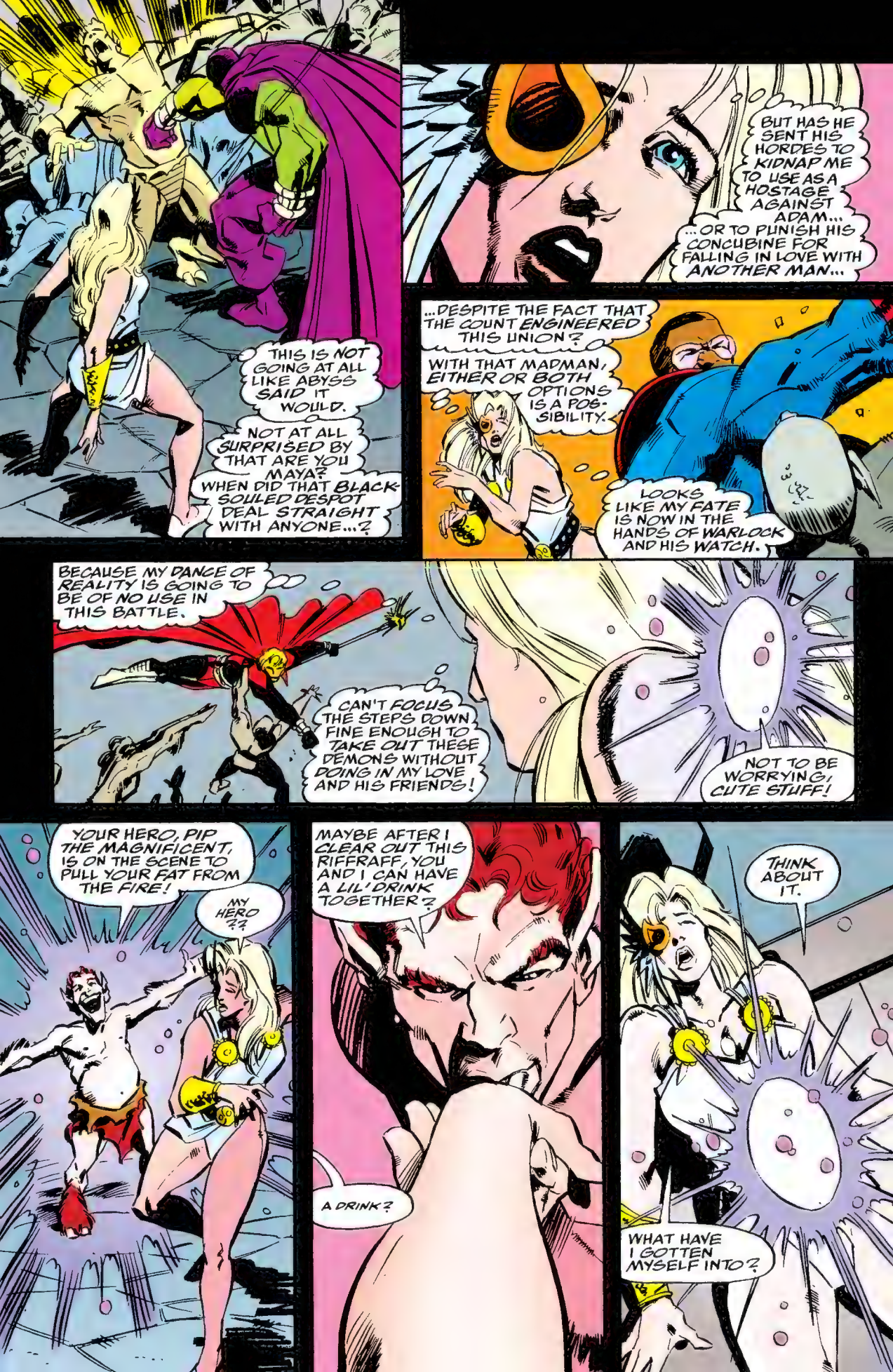

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
I HAVE ABSOLUETLY NO NOTION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS RIDICULOUS SITUATION.
THE FEELINGS RUNNING RAMPANT WITHIN ME ARE NEARLY OVERWHELMING.
LIFE HAS NOT PREPARED ME FOR LOVE.
EVER SINCE THAT FIASCO! I WAS INVOLVED IN SOME YEARS PAST WITH SIF AND THOR I HAVE AVOIDED WOMEN.
BUT THEN THAT HAD MORE TO DO WITH HUNGER THAN LOVE.
THE TRUTH IS, THOUGH, I GUESS I HAVE BEEN AFRAID OF THE FAIRER SEX AND THE EMOTIONS THEY GENERATE.
THAT AND THE FACT THAT MY EXISTENCE HAS LEFT ME NO TIME TO EVEN CONSIDER ROMANCE, LET ALONE INDULGE.
NOW LOVE CRUSHES DOWN ON ME.
I FEEL SO HELPLESS.
MANIPULATED.
HOW IRONIC.
I, WHO AM INFAMOUS FOR MANIPULATING ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, AM NOW THE PUPPET OF PASSION.
BUT SHE'S SO LOVELY.
THIS IS NOT HER FAULT.
FOOL! LISTEN TO YOURSELF!!
THINK!
THERE IS SOME WAY TO MANEUVER YOURSELF OUT OF THIS INSANITY!
I WILL FIND THE MEANS TO REGAIN CONTROL OF MY LIFE!
ADAM!

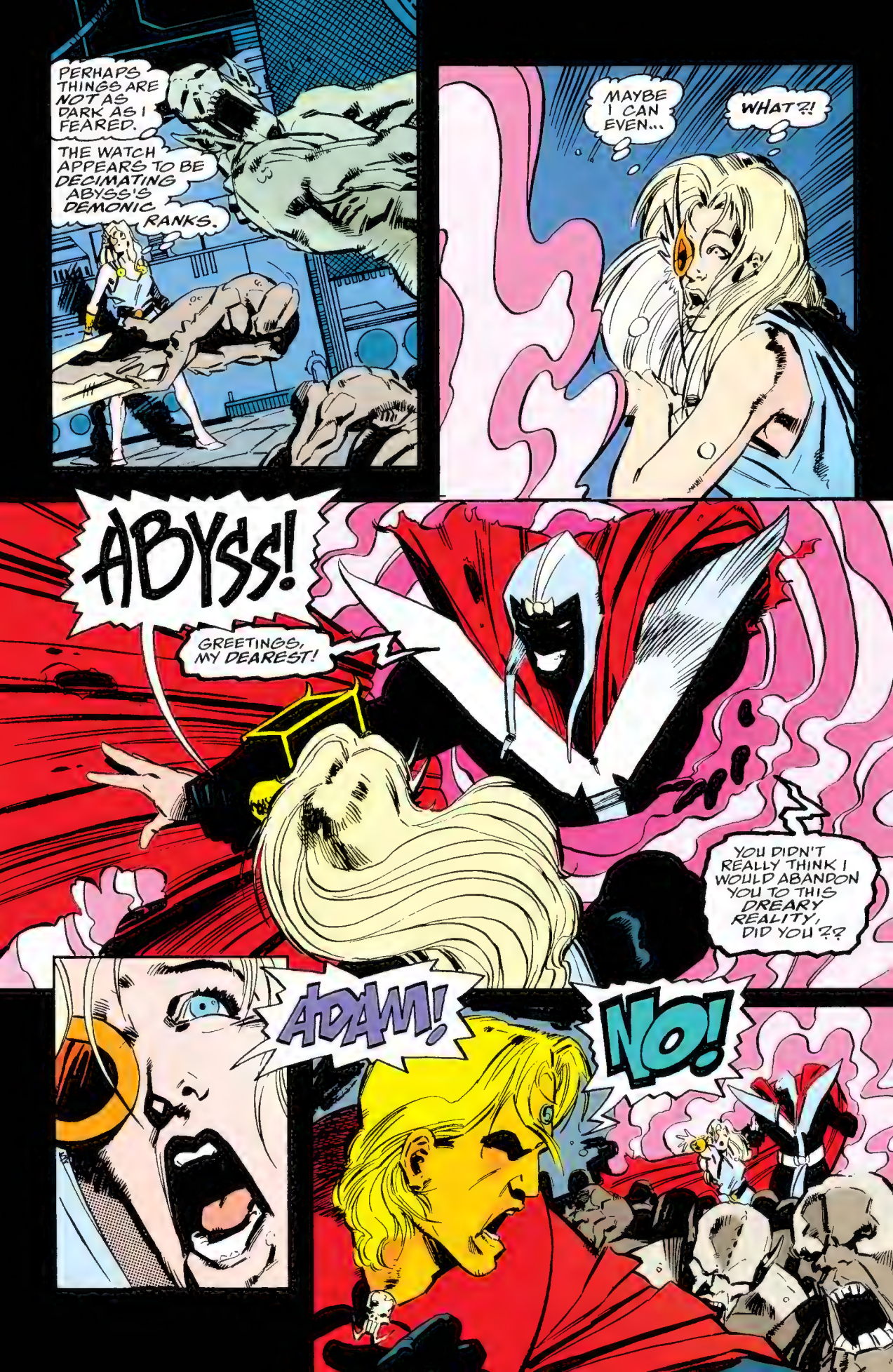
WE GOT UNANNOUNCED VISITORS SHOWING UP!
SOMEONE YOU INVITED--??
MORE LIKELY THE MINIONS OF COUNT ABYSS.
MORE NEAT LIGHTS...
DEMONS!
WHY DOES ADAM ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SO RIGHT?!

THEY HAVE OBVIOUSLY COME FOR MAYA.
ABYSS IS MAKING HIS MOVE!
DON'T LET THEM REACH HER!
THAT'S GOING TO BE EASIER SAID THAN DONE, ADAM!
THESE MONSTERS ARE OUT FOR BLOOD!
AND THEY SMELL FUNNY, TOO!
KEEP THEM OFF-BALANCE AND UNABLE TO FORM ANY ORGANIZED ATTACK!
BUT WE'VE GOT TO CLOSE THAT DIMENSIONAL PORTAL BEFORE WE'RE OVERWHELMED BY SHEER NUMBERS!

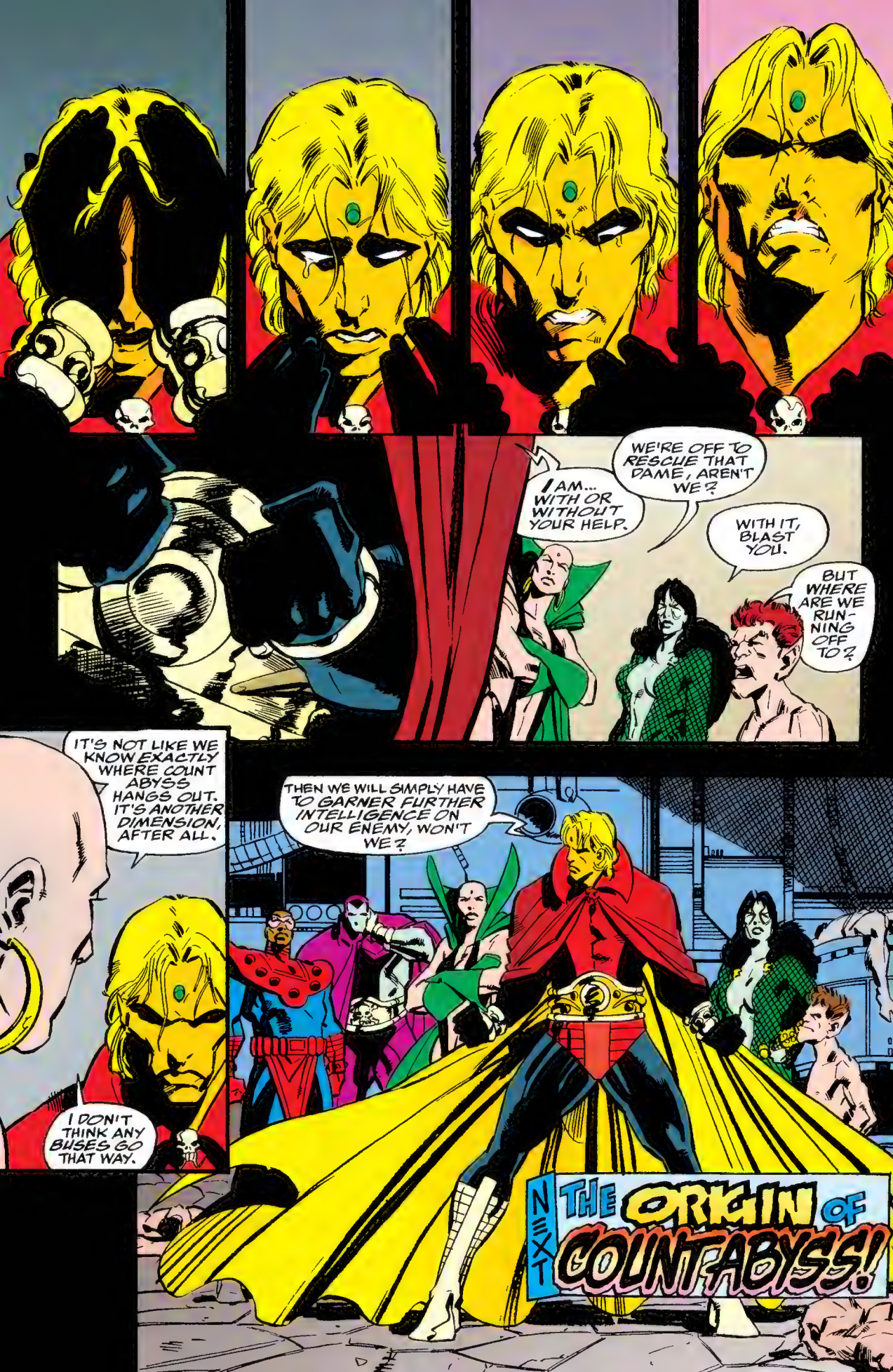
BUT YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE AS TO HOW TO GO ABOUT THAT!
ADAM?
"I'LL GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT."
"WELL, THINK FAST BEFORE WE'RE UP TO OUR EARS IN FANGED HORRORS!"
IN THE MEANTIME CONCENTRATE ON KEEPING OUR CURRENT ADVERSARIES AT BAY!
WHERE'S GAMORA?!

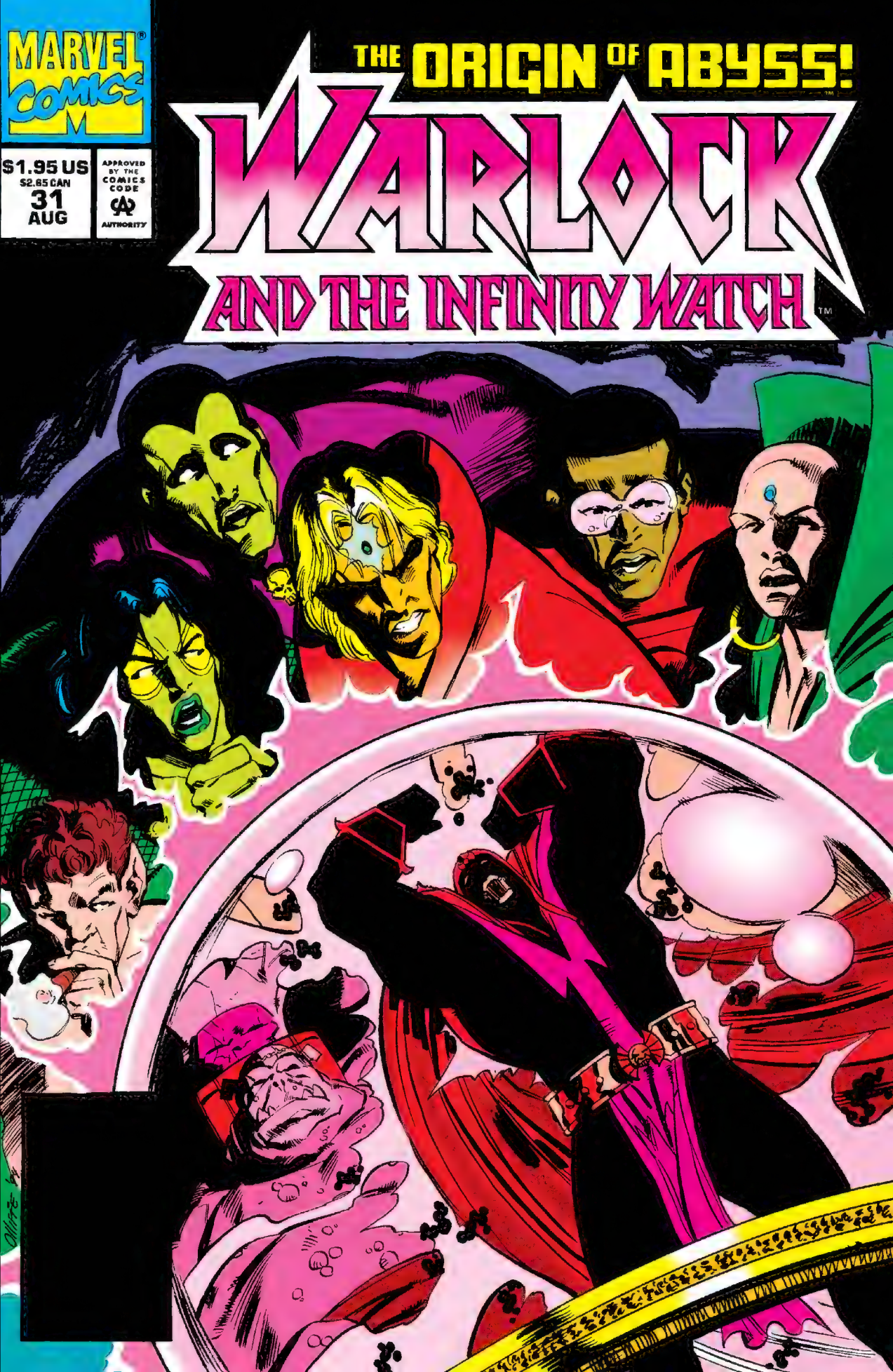
NOW WHAT'S GOING ON?
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS GROUP ALONE FOR EVEN FIVE MINUTES WITHOUT...
THESE FUZZY CHARACTERS HAVE THE FEEL OF BEING ABYSS'S BOYS.
AND FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, THEY'RE HERE TO ESCORT MAYA HOME TO THE BIG CHEESE.
ROUGH ON MAYA, BUT IT WORKS FOR ME.
WITH HER GONE, ADAM WILL GET BACK TO HIS OLD SELF AND MAYBE EVEN THINK ABOUT LIL' GAMORA A BIT DIFFERENTLY...
I KNOW, IT'S A ROTTEN THING EVEN TO CONSIDER... BUT...
KNOWING ADAM AND HIS OBSESSIVE WAYS, ANYTHING BAD HAPPENS TO THAT BLONDE BIMBO AND HE'LL PINE AFTER HER UNTIL HIS DYING DAY.
COULDN'T STAND WATCHING THAT.
SO....
NO!
BESIDES, I HAVEN'T HAD MY DAILY WORK-OUT YET.


THIS IS NOT GOING AT ALL LIKE ABYSS SAID IT WOULD.
NOT AT ALL SURPRISED BY THAT ARE YOU MAYA? WHEN DID THAT BLACK-SOULED DESPOT DEAL STRAIGHT WITH ANYONE...?
BUT HAS HE SENT HIS HORDES TO KIDNAP ME TO USE AS A HOSTAGE AGAINST ADAM... ...OR TO PUNISH HIS CONCUBINE FOR FALLING IN LOVE WITH ANOTHER MAN...
...DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE COUNT ENGINEERED THIS UNION?
WITH THAT MADMAN, EITHER OR BOTH OPTIONS IS A POSSIBILITY.
LOOKS LIKE MY FATE IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF WARLOCK AND HIS WATCH.
BECAUSE MY DANCE OF REALITY IS GOING TO BE OF NO USE IN THIS BATTLE.
CAN'T FOCUS THE STEPS DOWN FINE ENOUGH TO TAKE OUT THESE DEMONS WITHOUT DOING IN MY LOVE AND HIS FRIENDS!
NOT TO BE WORRYING, CUTE STUFF!
YOUR HERO, PIP THE MAGNIFICENT, IS ON THE SCENE TO PULL YOUR FAT FROM THE FIRE!
MY HERO ?!
MAYBE AFTER I CLEAR OUT THIS RIFFRAFF, YOU AND I CAN HAVE A LIL' DRINK TOGETHER?
A DRINK?
THINK ABOUT IT.
WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?


PERHAPS THINGS ARE NOT AS DARK AS I FEARED.
THE WATCH APPEARS TO BE DECIMATING ABYSS'S DEMONIC RANKS.
MAYBE I CAN EVEN...
WHAT?!
ABYSS!
GREETINGS, MY DEAREST!
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I WOULD ABANDON YOU TO THIS DREARY REALITY, DID YOU?
ADAM!
NO!

SHE'S GONE!
HOW CAN I SURVIVE WITHOUT HER??
I CAN'T.


I AM... WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR HELP.
WE'RE OFF TO RESCUE THAT DAME, AREN'T WE?
WITH IT, BLAST YOU.
BUT WHERE ARE WE RUNNING OFF TO?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE COUNT ABYSS HANGS OUT. IT'S ANOTHER DIMENSION, AFTER ALL.
I DON'T THINK ANY BUSES GO THAT WAY.
THEN WE WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO GARNER FURTHER INTELLIGENCE ON OUR ENEMY, WON'T WE?
NEXT
THE ORIGIN OF COUNT ABYSS!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THE ORIGIN OF ABYSS!
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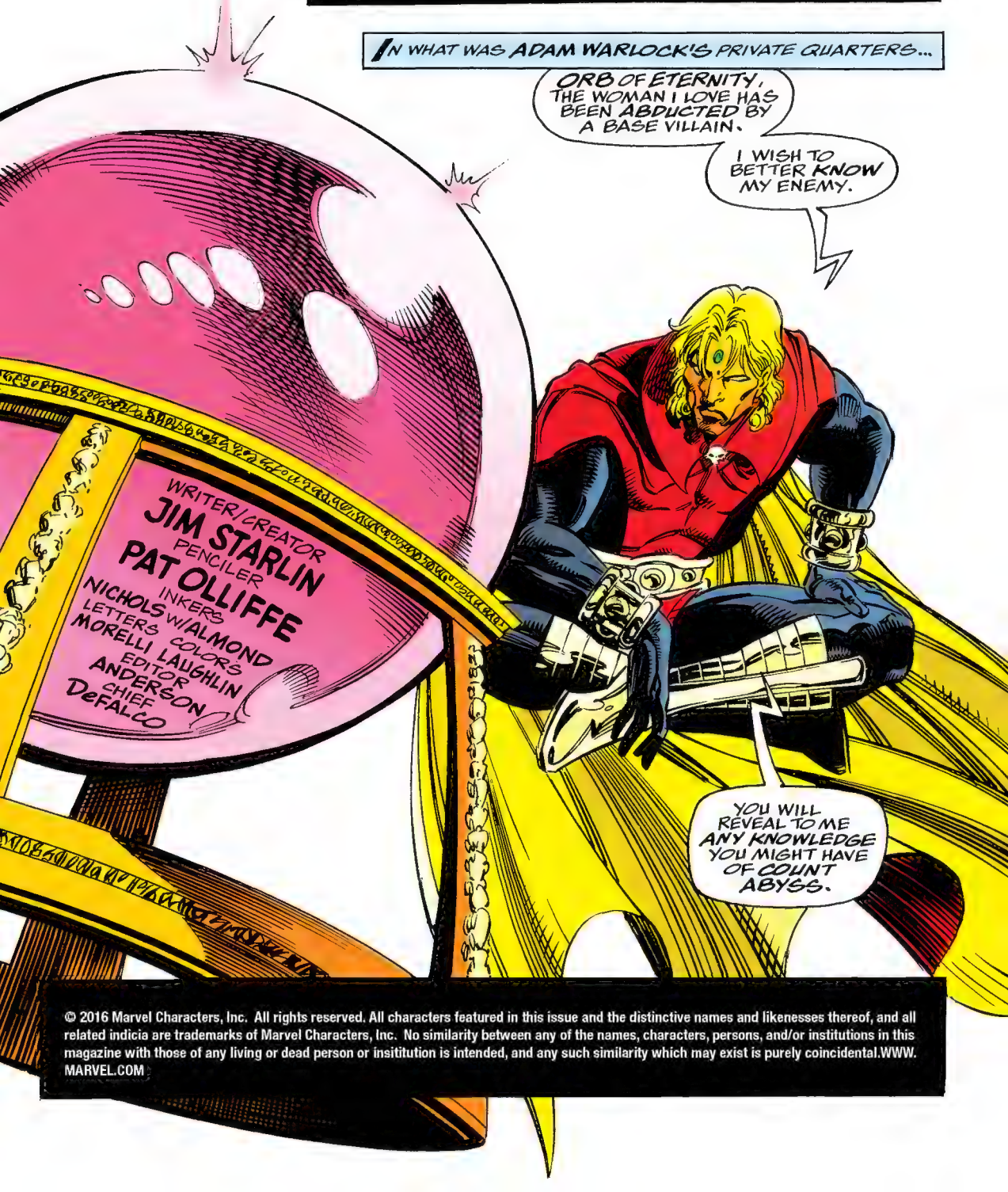
I WAS THROWN OUT OF COLLEGE FOR CHEATING ON MY METAPHYSICS EXAM; I LOOKED INTO THE SOUL OF THE BOY NEXT TO ME. --WOODY ALLEN.

ABYSS



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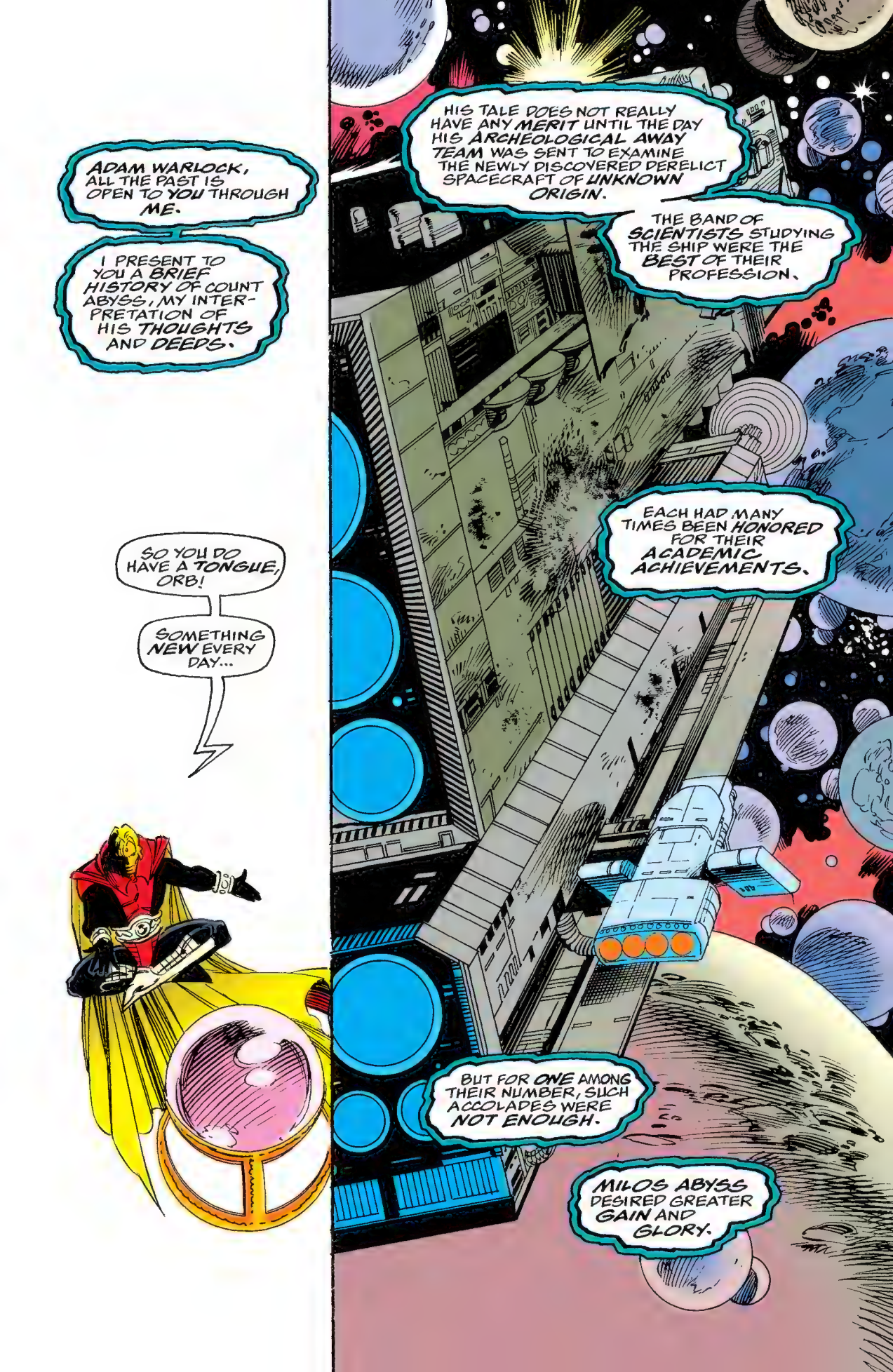
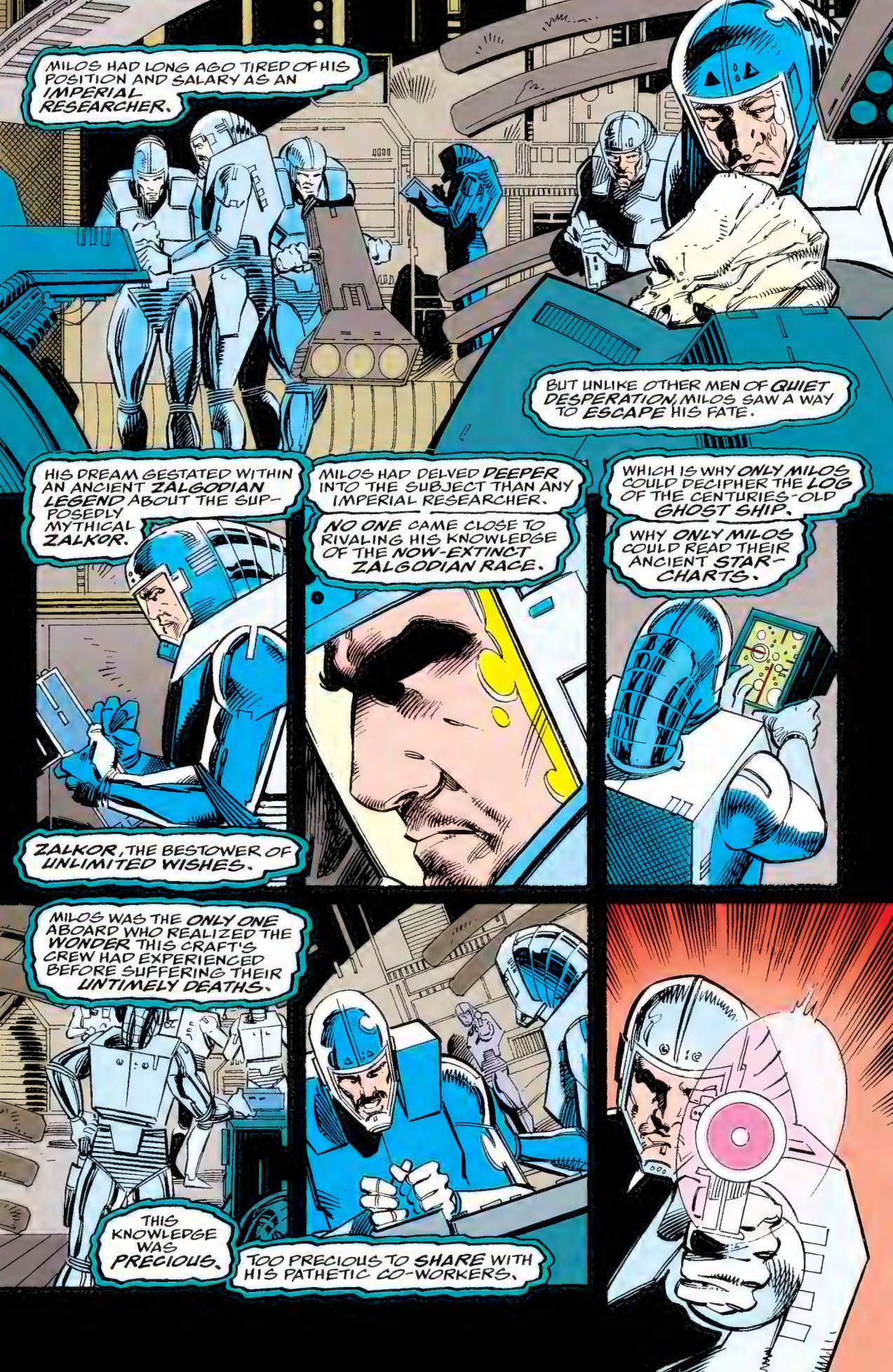
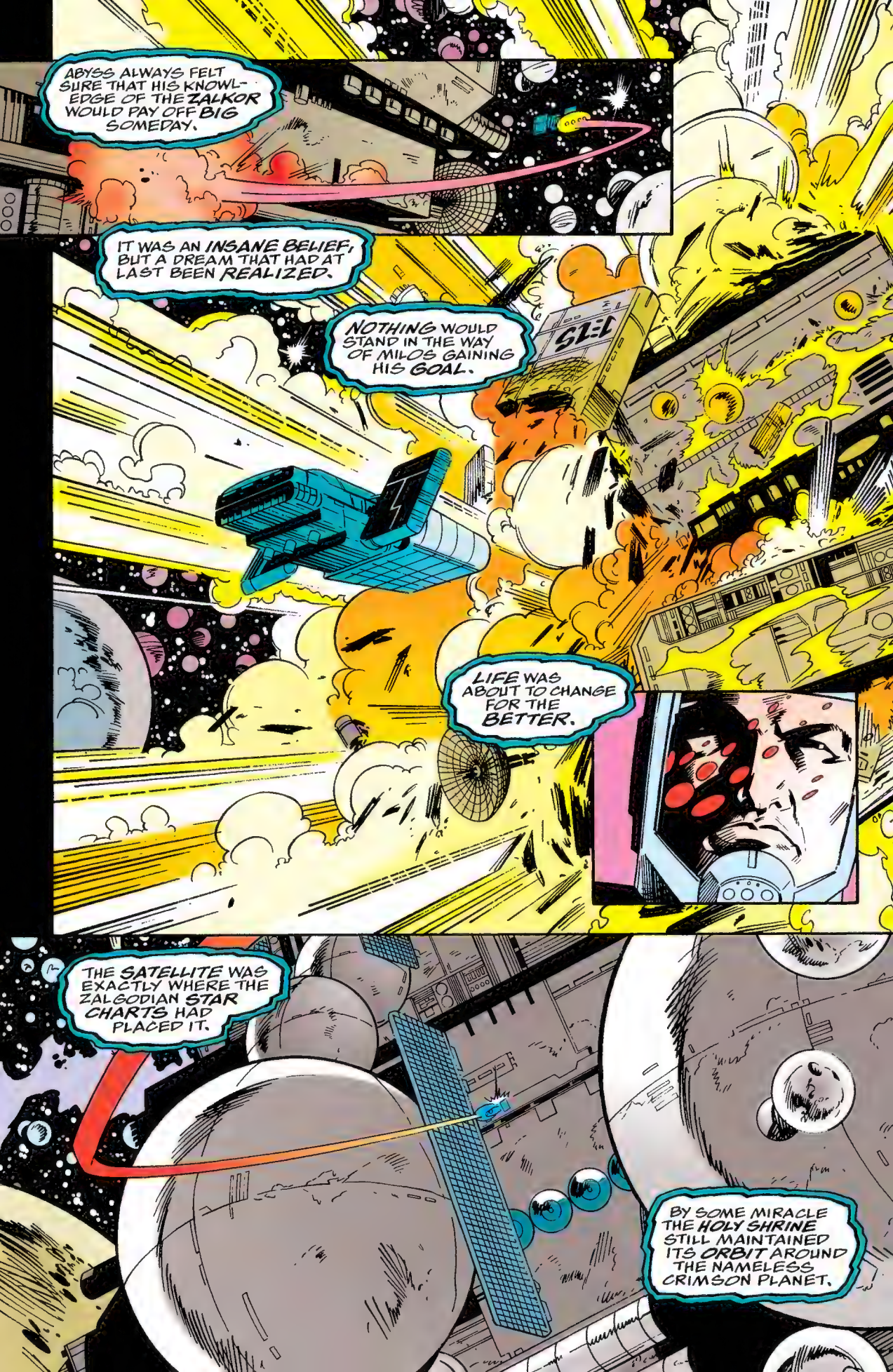

ADAM WARLOCK, ALL THE PAST IS OPEN TO YOU THROUGH ME.
I PRESENT TO YOU A BRIEF HISTORY OF COUNT ABYSS, MY INTERPRETATION OF HIS THOUGHTS AND DEEDS.
SO YOU DO HAVE A TONGUE, ORB!
SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY...
HIS TALE DOES NOT REALLY HAVE ANY MERIT UNTIL THE DAY HIS ARCHEOLOGICAL AWAY TEAM WAS SENT TO EXAMINE THE NEWLY DISCOVERED DERELICT SPACECRAFT OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN.
THE BAND OF SCIENTISTS STUDYING THE SHIP WERE THE BEST OF THEIR PROFESSION.
EACH HAD MANY TIMES BEEN HONORED FOR THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS.
BUT FOR ONE AMONG THEIR NUMBER, SUCH ACCOLADES WERE NOT ENOUGH.
MILOS ABYSS DESIRED GREATER GAIN AND GLORY.


MILOS HAD LONG AGO TIRED OF HIS POSITION AND SALARY AS AN IMPERIAL RESEARCHER.
BUT UNLIKE OTHER MEN OF QUIET DESPERATION, MILOS SAW A WAY TO ESCAPE HIS FATE.
HIS DREAM GESTATED WITHIN AN ANCIENT ZALGODIAN LEGEND ABOUT THE SUPPOSEDLY MYTHICAL ZALKOR.
ZALKOR, THE BESTOWER OF UNLIMITED WISHES.
MILOS HAD DELVED DEEPER INTO THE SUBJECT THAN ANY IMPERIAL RESEARCHER.
NO ONE CAME CLOSE TO RIVALING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE NOW-EXTINCT ZALGODIAN RACE.
WHICH IS WHY ONLY MILOS COULD DECIPHER THE LOG OF THE CENTURIES-OLD GHOST SHIP.
WHY ONLY MILOS COULD READ THEIR ANCIENT STAR-CHARTS.
MILOS WAS THE ONLY ONE ABOARD WHO REALIZED THE WONDER THIS CRAFT'S CREW HAD EXPERIENCED BEFORE SUFFERING THEIR UNTIMELY DEATHS.
THIS KNOWLEDGE WAS PRECIOUS.
TOO PRECIOUS TO SHARE WITH HIS PATHETIC CO-WORKERS.


ABYSS ALWAYS FELT SURE THAT HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE ZALKOR WOULD PAY OFF BIG SOMEDAY.
IT WAS AN INSANE BELIEF, BUT A DREAM THAT HAD AT LAST BEEN REALIZED.
NOTHING WOULD STAND IN THE WAY OF MILOS GAINING HIS GOAL.
LIFE WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER.
THE SATELLITE WAS EXACTLY WHERE THE ZALGODIAN STAR CHARTS HAD PLACED IT.
BY SOME MIRACLE THE HOLY SHRINE STILL MAINTAINED ITS ORBIT AROUND THE NAMELESS CRIMSON PLANET.

IT WAS FAR LARGER THAN ANY SERVICE SATELLITE ABYSS HAD EVER DOCKED AT.

AND COMPLETELY DEAD.

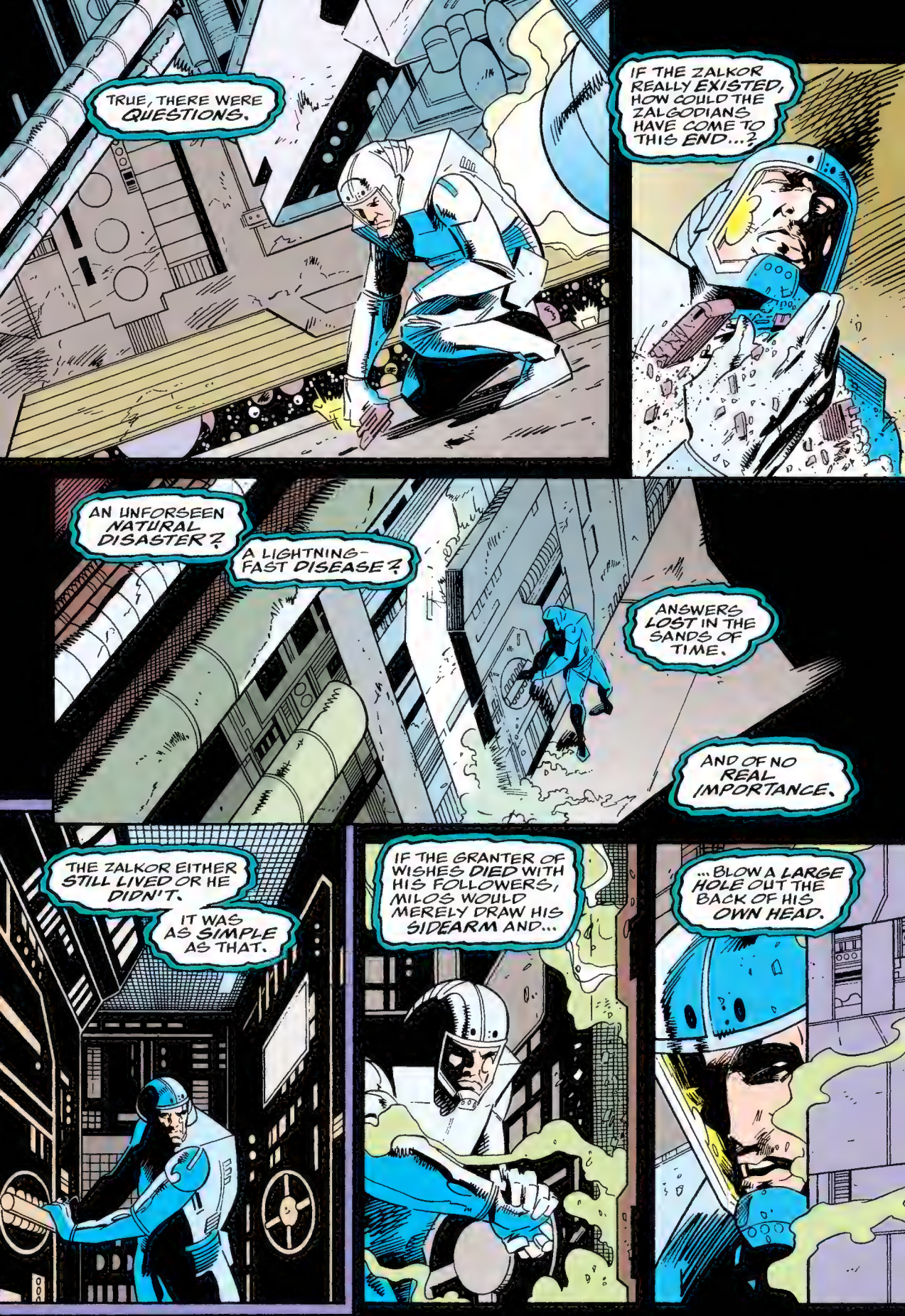
THE DESIGNERS AND RESIDENTS OF THIS ONCE PROUD STRUCTURE WERE NO LONGER EVEN MEMORY.

COULD MILOS REALLY FIND THE ANSWERS TO ALL HIS PRAYERS WITHIN THIS DECAYING HULK?

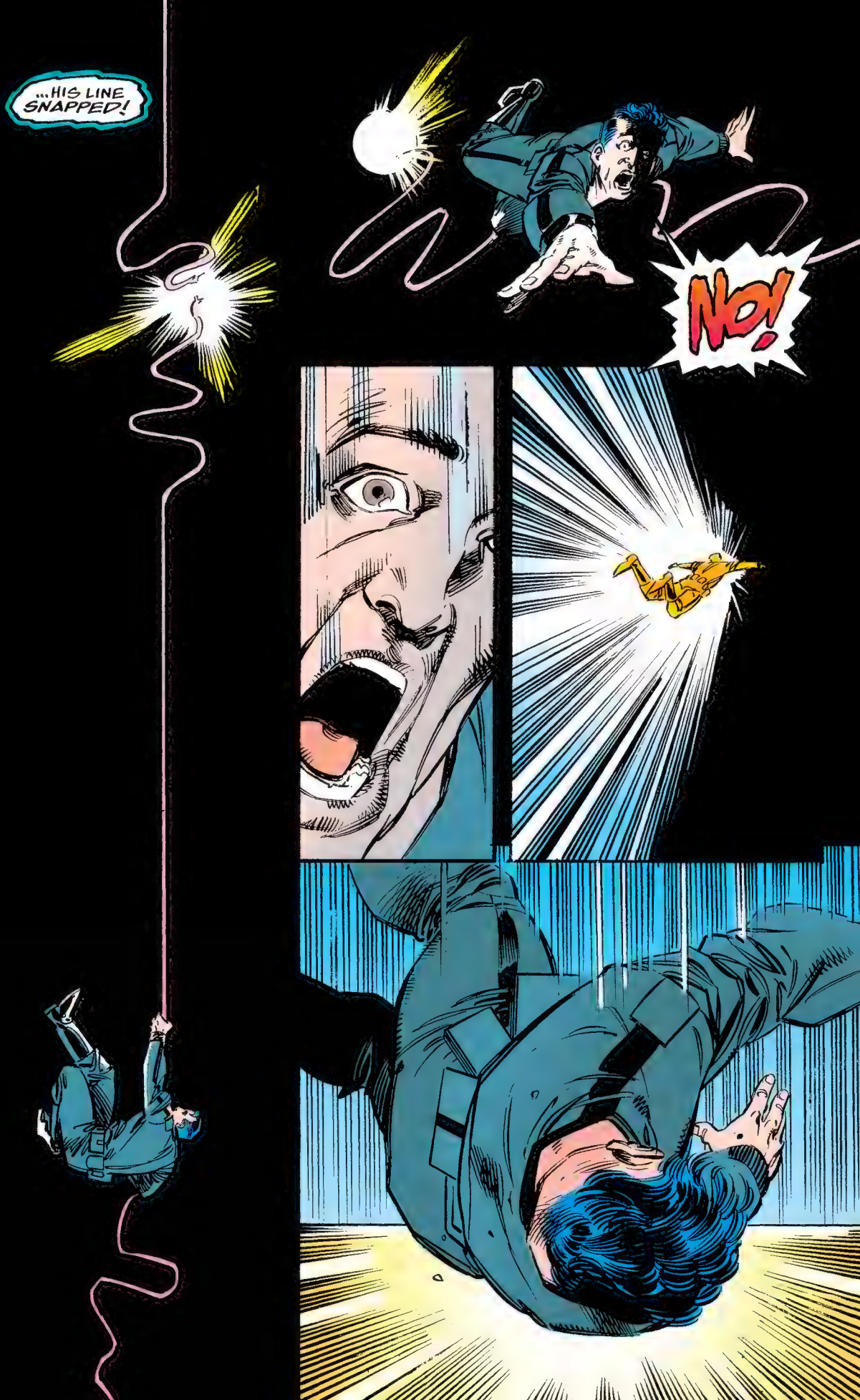
ABYSS STUBBORNLY RESISTED THE NEARLY OVERWHELMING WAVE OF DOUBT THAT CRASHED DOWN UPON HIM.

HE'D BURNT HIS BRIDGES.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE ROUTE NOW OPEN TO THIS MURDEROUS ACADEMIC.


TRUE, THERE WERE QUESTIONS.
IF THE ZALKOR REALLY EXISTED, HOW COULD THE ZALGODIANS HAVE COME TO THIS END...?
AN UNFORSEEN NATURAL DISASTER?
A LIGHTNING-FAST DISEASE?
ANSWERS LOST IN THE SANDS OF TIME.
AND OF NO REAL IMPORTANCE.
THE ZALKOR EITHER STILL LIVED OR HE DIDN'T.
IT WAS AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
IF THE GRANTER OF WISHES DIED WITH HIS FOLLOWERS, MILOS WOULD MERELY DRAW HIS SIDEARM AND...
...BLOW A LARGE HOLE OUT THE BACK OF HIS OWN HEAD.

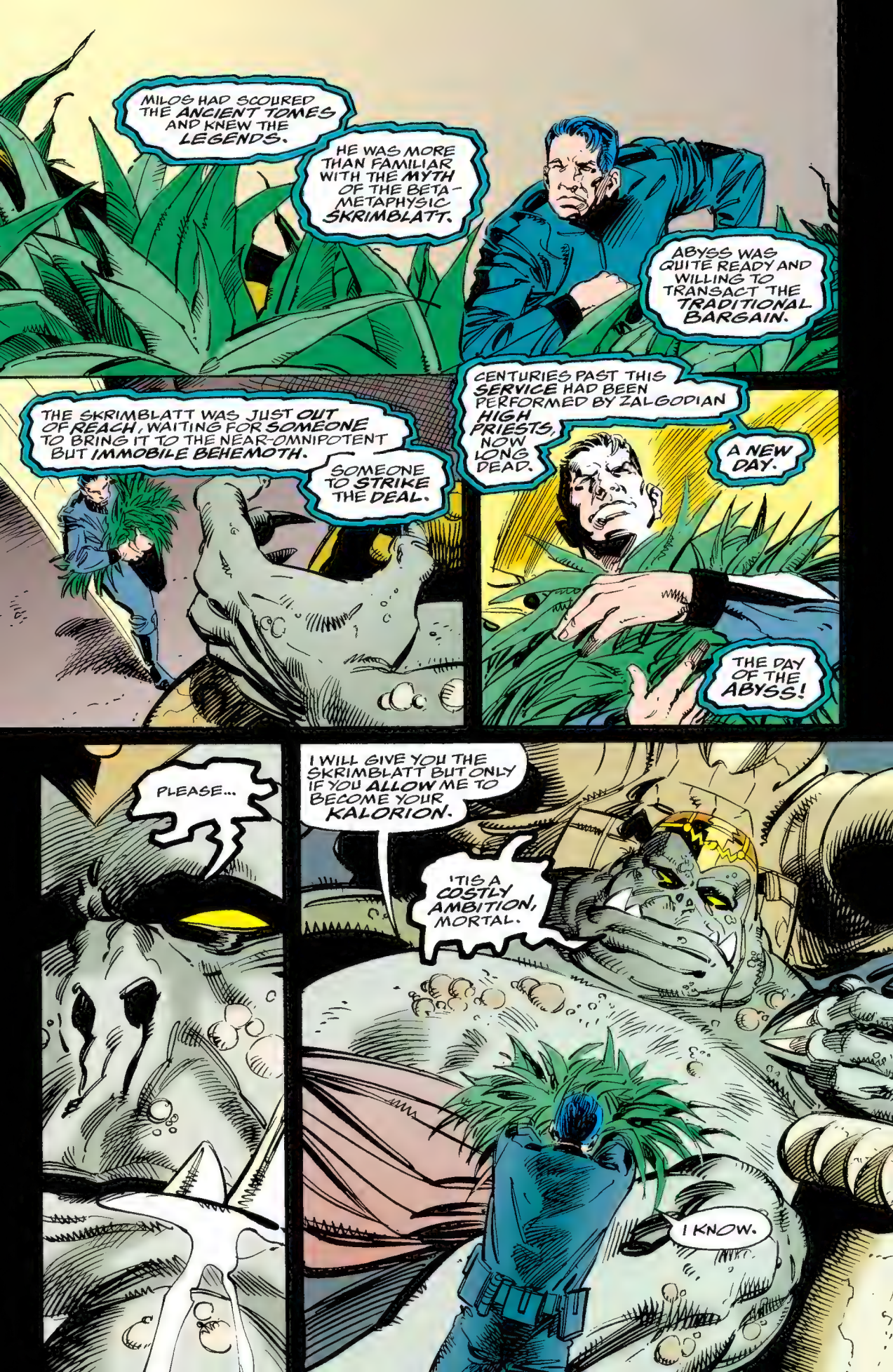
BUT IF THE ZALKOR YET LIVED, MILOS FIGURED HIS OWN END MIGHT SUDDENLY BE SEVERAL CENTURIES DISTANT.
CENTURIES SPENT IN A MOST INTER-ESTING AND PROFITABLE MANNER.
HE COULD ALMOST TASTE THE POWER AS HE NEARED ITS SOURCE.
ABYSS WAS ABOUT TO STEP OUT FROM THE WORLD OF THE MUNDANE AND INTO THE REALITY OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY.
THE DESTINY MILOS ALWAYS SENSED OVER THE HORIZON BUT NEVER DARED SPEAK OF WAS FINALLY UPON HIM.
A GRAND FATE HAD ORDAINED THAT THIS WOULD BE HIS LOT IN LIFE.
PERHAPS THAT IS WHY MILOS ABYSS FOUND IT ALMOST NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCEPT WHEN...
THIS BELIEF HAD ALWAYS BEEN A CORNER STONE WITHIN MILOS' SOUL, AN ANCHOR TO AID IN WEATHERING MANY A PHYSIC STORM.


...HIS LINE SNAPPED!
NO!

GREETINGS...
WHO?

THE ZALKOR!

SKRIMBLATT, PLEASE!


MILOS HAD SCOURED THE ANCIENT TOMES AND KNEW THE LEGENDS.
HE WAS MORE THAN FAMILIAR WITH THE MYTH OF THE BETA-METAPHYSIC SKRIMBLATT.
ABYSS WAS QUITE READY AND WILLING TO TRANSACT THE TRADITIONAL BARGAIN.
THE SKRIMBLATT WAS JUST OUT OF REACH, WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO BRING IT TO THE NEAR-OMNIPOTENT BUT IMMOBILE BEHEMOTH.
SOMEONE TO STRIKE THE DEAL.
CENTURIES PAST THIS SERVICE HAD BEEN PERFORMED BY ZALGODIAN HIGH PRIESTS, NOW LONG DEAD.
A NEW DAY.
THE DAY OF THE ABYSS!
PLEASE...
I WILL GIVE YOU THE SKRIMBLATT BUT ONLY IF YOU ALLOW ME TO BECOME YOUR KALORION.
'TIS A COSTLY AMBITION, MORTAL.
I KNOW.

BUT WITH SUCH POWER WHAT NEED HAVE I OF A SOUL?
HAVE WE A DEAL, ZALKOR?
YES.
I HAVE LIVED UP TO MY END OF THE BARGAIN, ZALKOR!
AAAHHH
VERY WELL...

AND SO WAS BORN

COUNT ABYSS

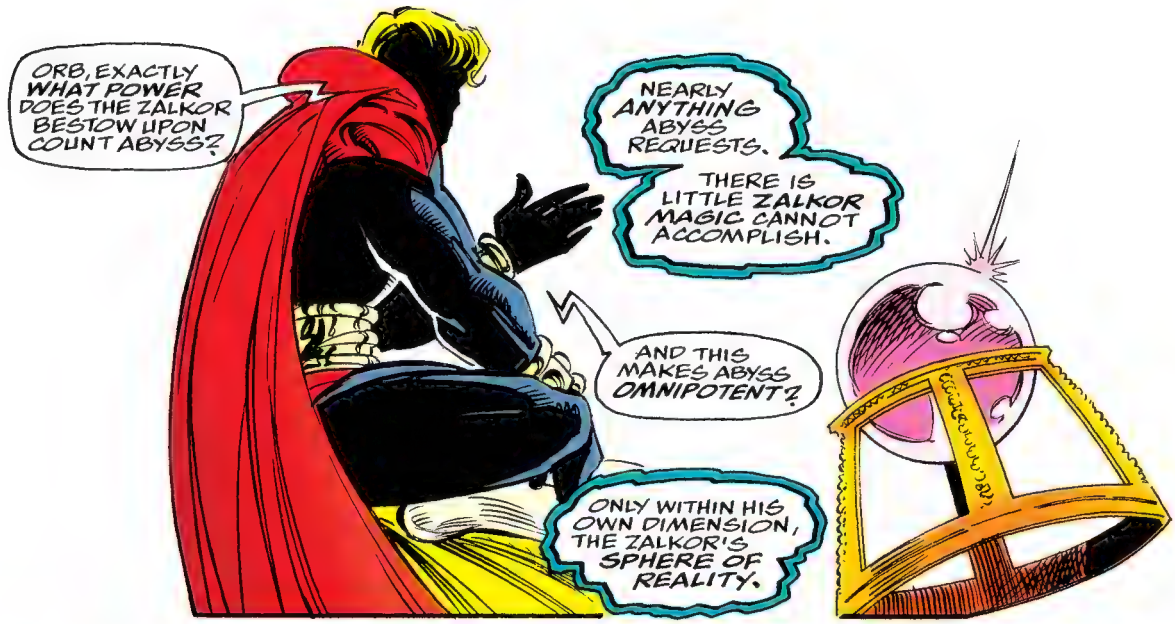
OUT OF THE DRUG-INDUCED STUPOR OF A COSMIC BEING WITH NEARLY GODLIKE POWERS.

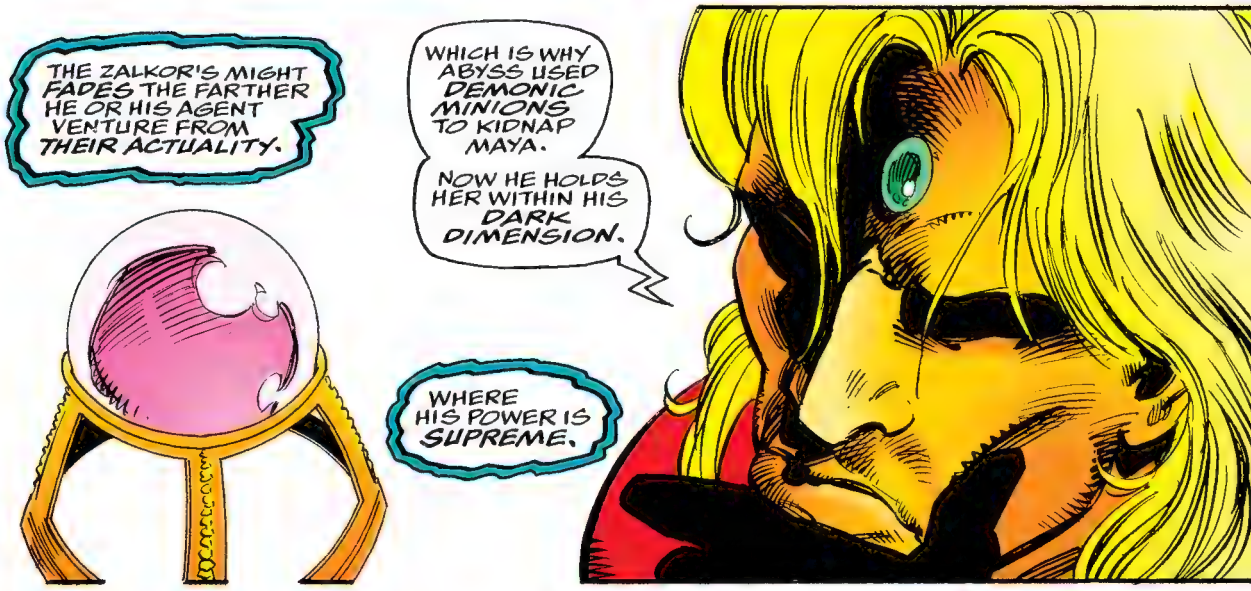
ON THAT DAY THOSE TWO DIVERSE CREATURES BONDED IN A FASHION NO ONE WILL PROBABLY EVER UNDERSTAND.

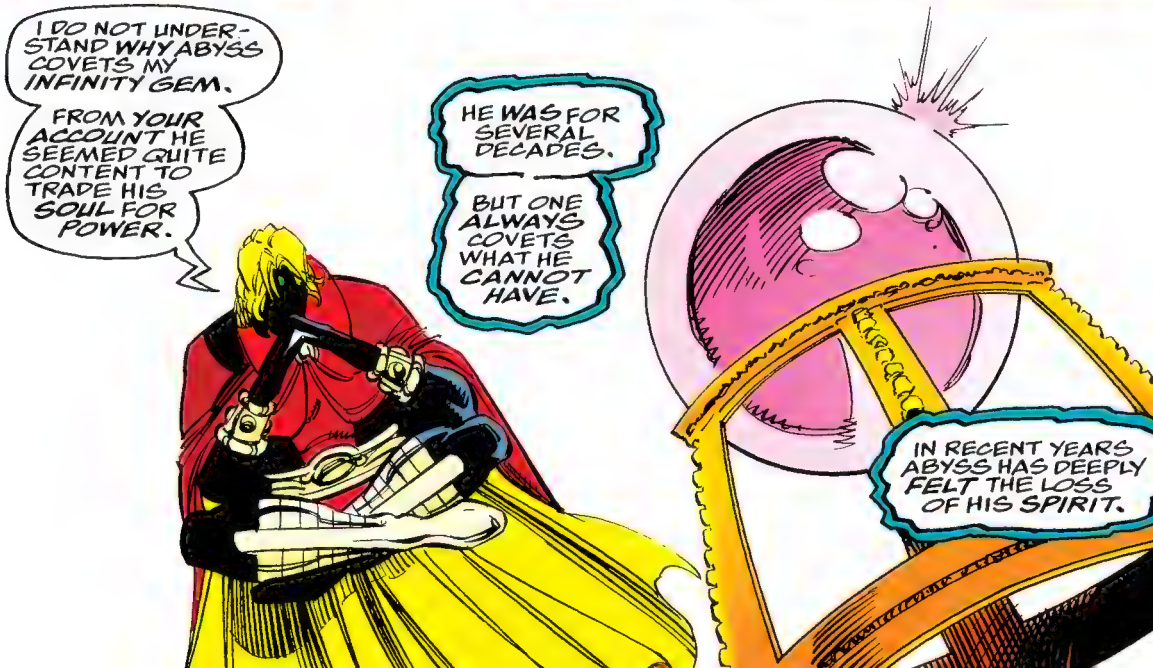
A UNION OF MASTER AND SLAVE, WITH EACH THINKING THE OTHER THE SUBSERVIENT.

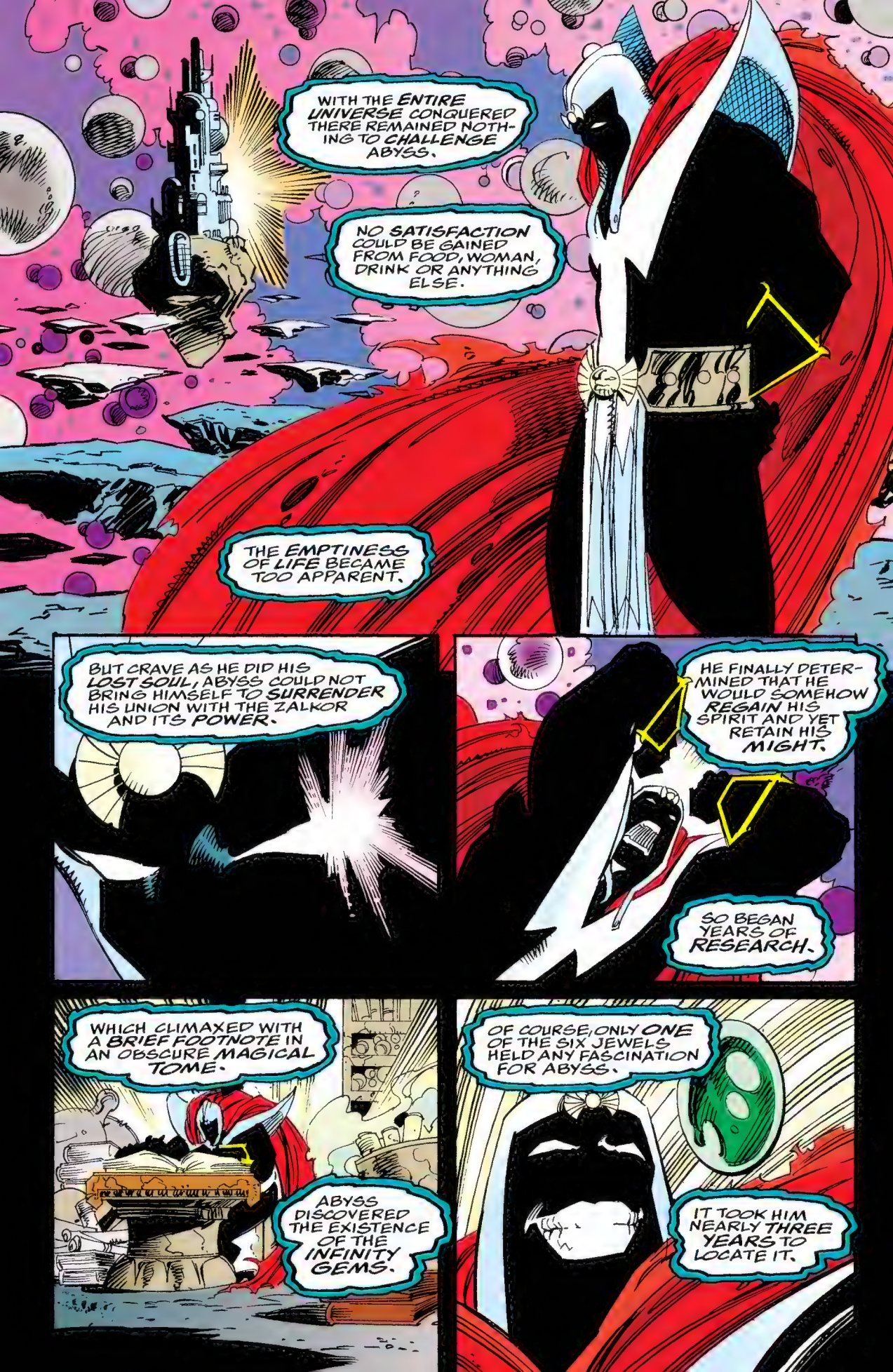
A DARK MARRIAGE IN MADNESS.

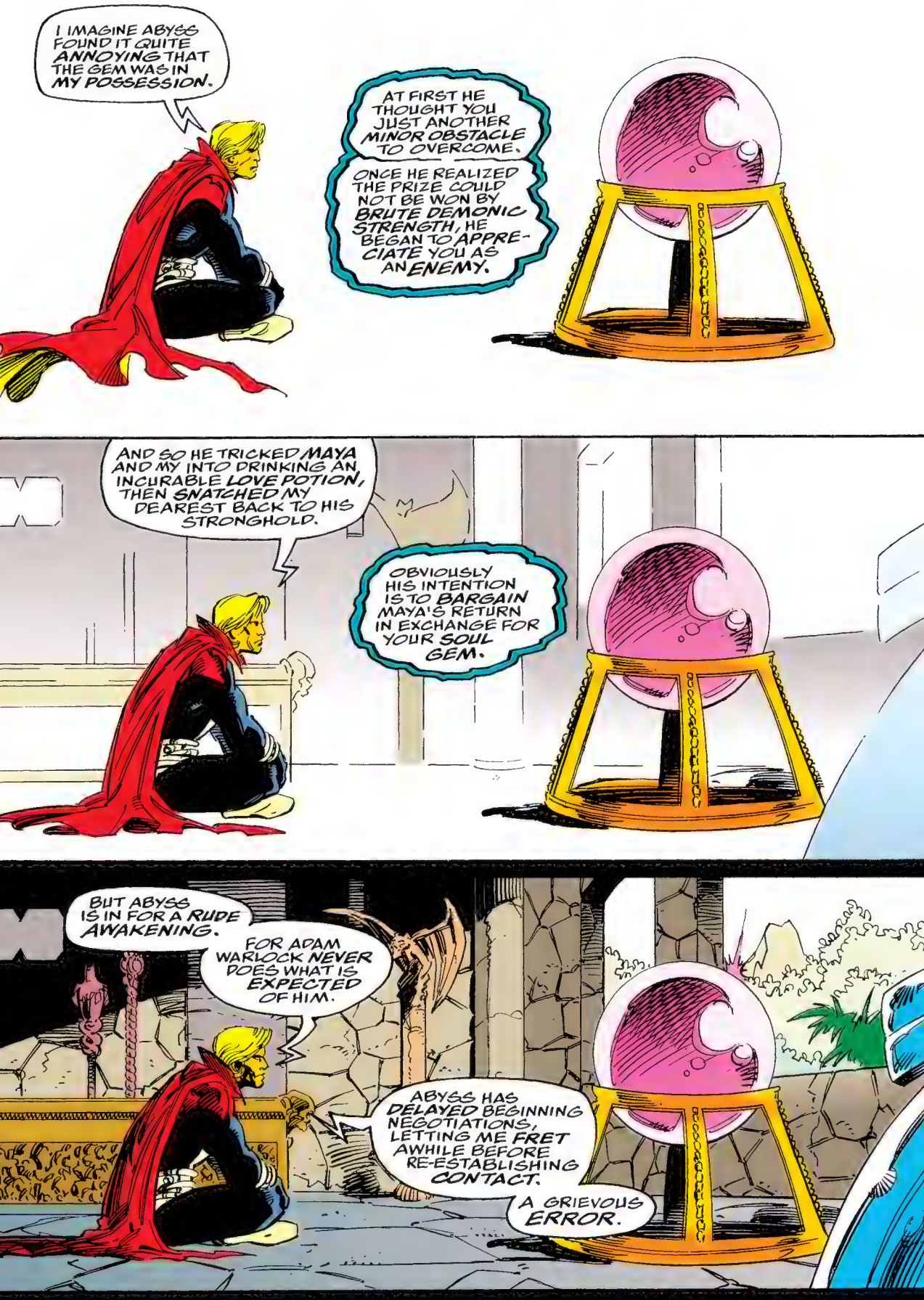
TOGETHER WE SHALL CONQUER THE UNIVERSE!
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT THE ZALKOR AND ABYSS DID IN THEIR PARTICULAR REALITY.
NOTHING IN THEIR DIMENSION COULD STAND AGAINST THE ABYSS-DIRECTED MIGHT OF THE ZALKOR.
WORLD AFTER WORLD FELL INTO SUBMISSION. GALAXY AFTER GALAXY PAID HOMAGE TO ITS NEW TYRANT.
DESPITE OR MAYBE BECAUSE OF THE LOSS OF HIS SOUL TO THE ZALKOR, COUNT ABYSS PROVED TO BE AN EXCEPTIONALLY VICIOUS AND MERCILESS DESPOT.


ORB, EXACTLY WHAT POWER DOES THE ZALKOR BESTOW UPON COUNT ABYSS?
NEARLY ANYTHING ABYSS REQUESTS.
THERE IS LITTLE ZALKOR MAGIC CANNOT ACCOMPLISH.
AND THIS MAKES ABYSS OMNIPOTENT?
ONLY WITHIN HIS OWN DIMENSION, THE ZALKOR'S SPHERE OF REALITY.

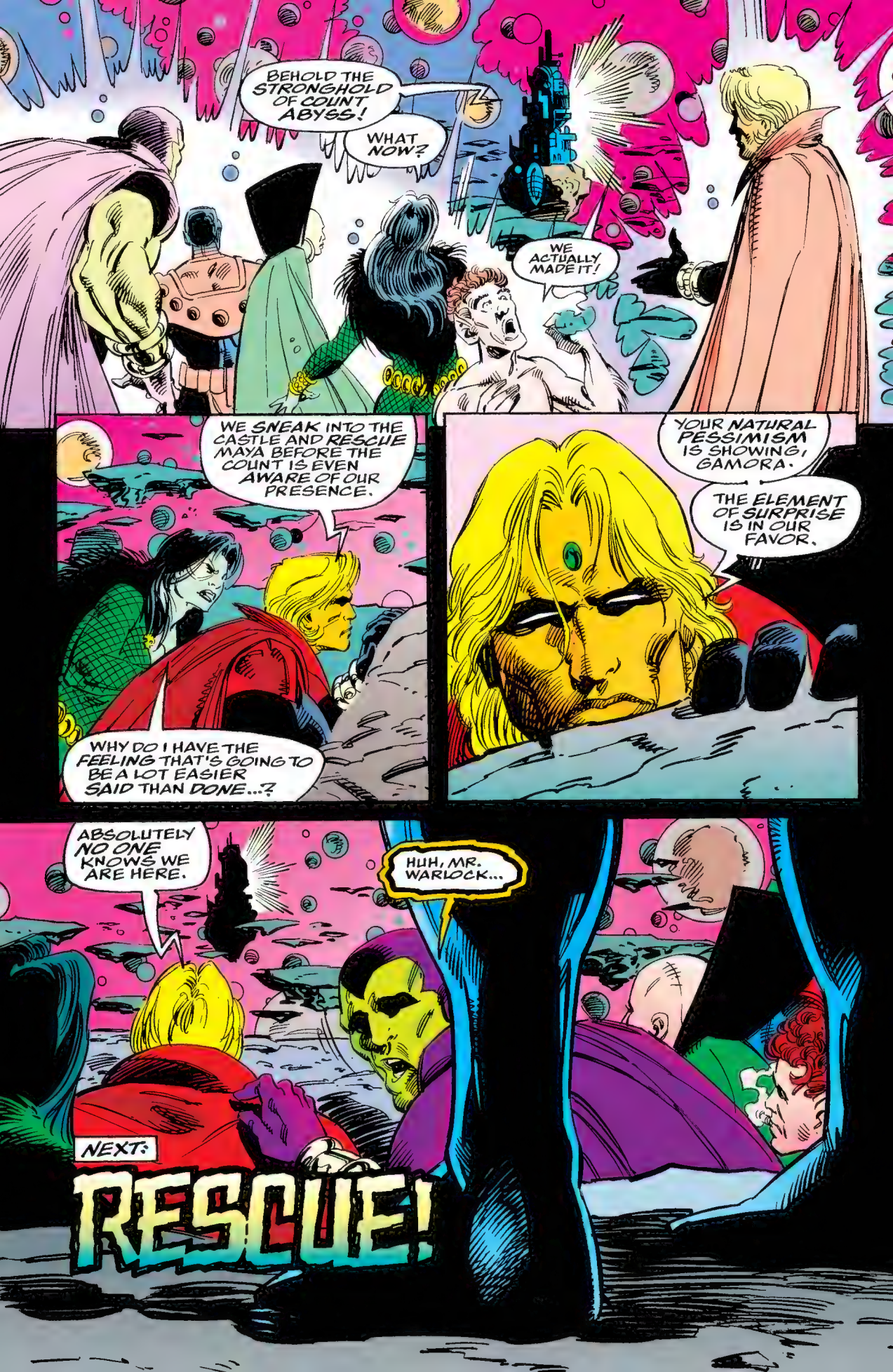

THE ZALKOR'S MIGHT FADES THE FARTHER HE OR HIS AGENT VENTURE FROM THEIR ACTUALITY.
WHICH IS WHY ABYSS USED DEMONIC MINIONS TO KIDNAP MAYA.
NOW HE HOLDS HER WITHIN HIS DARK DIMENSION.
WHERE HIS POWER IS SUPREME.

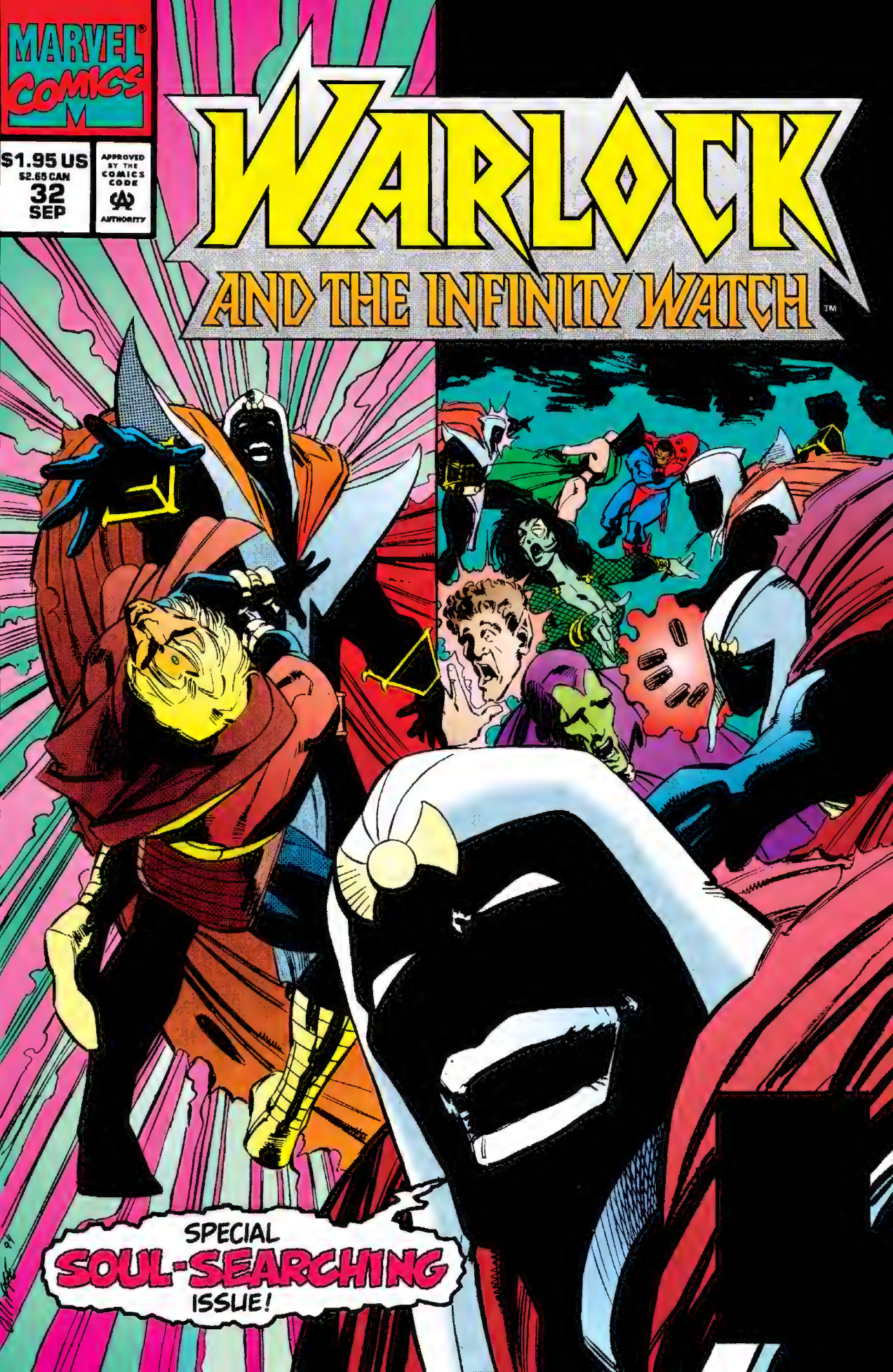

I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ABYSS COVETS MY INFINITY GEM.
FROM YOUR ACCOUNT HE SEEMED QUITE CONTENT TO TRADE HIS SOUL FOR POWER.
HE WAS FOR SEVERAL DECADES.
BUT ONE ALWAYS COVETS WHAT HE CANNOT HAVE.
IN RECENT YEARS ABYSS HAS DEEPLY FELT THE LOSS OF HIS SPIRIT.


WITH THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE CONQUERED THERE REMAINED NOTHING TO CHALLENGE ABYSS.
NO SATISFACTION COULD BE GAINED FROM FOOD, WOMAN, DRINK OR ANYTHING ELSE.
THE EMPTINESS OF LIFE BECAME TOO APPARENT.
BUT CRAVE AS HE DID HIS LOST SOUL, ABYSS COULD NOT BRING HIMSELF TO SURRENDER HIS UNION WITH THE ZALKOR AND ITS POWER.
HE FINALLY DETERMINED THAT HE WOULD SOMEHOW REGAIN HIS SPIRIT AND YET RETAIN HIS MIGHT.
SO BEGAN YEARS OF RESEARCH.
WHICH CLIMAXED WITH A BRIEF FOOTNOTE IN AN OBSCURE MAGICAL TOME.
ABYSS DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF THE INFINITY GEMS.
OF COURSE, ONLY ONE OF THE SIX JEWELS HELD ANY FASCINATION FOR ABYSS.
IT TOOK HIM NEARLY THREE YEARS TO LOCATE IT.


I IMAGINE ABYSS FOUND IT QUITE ANNOYING THAT THE GEM WAS IN MY POSSESSION.
AT FIRST HE THOUGHT YOU JUST ANOTHER MINOR OBSTACLE TO OVERCOME.
ONCE HE REALIZED THE PRIZE COULD NOT BE WON BY BRUTE DEMONIC STRENGTH, HE BEGAN TO APPRECIATE YOU AS AN ENEMY.
AND SO HE TRICKED MAYA AND MY INTO DRINKING AN INCURABLE LOVE POTION, THEN SNATCHED MY DEAREST BACK TO HIS STRONGHOLD.
OBVIOUSLY HIS INTENTION IS TO BARGAIN MAYA'S RETURN IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SOUL GEM.
BUT ABYSS IS IN FOR A RUDE AWAKENING.
FOR ADAM WARLOCK NEVER DOES WHAT IS EXPECTED OF HIM.
ABYSS HAS DELAYED BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS, LETTING ME FRET AWHILE BEFORE RE-ESTABLISHING CONTACT.
A GRIEVOUS ERROR.

FOR THE INFINITY WATCH WILL NOT BE HOME WHEN NEXT HE CALLS.
I ASSUME YOU MEAN THE COUNT.
EXACTLY.
WHERE ARE WE HEADING?
THE BIG APPLE FOR THE WEEK-END?
NO. WE ARE ABOUT TO DIVE DEEP INTO THE HEART OF ABYSS'S REALM.
AND YOU, FRIEND PIP, ARE GOING TO TRANS-PORT US THERE.
IN CASE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN, I CAN'T TELEPORT ANYONE ANYPLACE I AIN'T BEEN TO.
SO A TRIP TO THE BOGEYMAN'S PARADISE IS DEFINITELY OUT!
BUT YOU CAN TELEPORT TO UNKNOWN TERRI-TORIES IF IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCALE.
BUT YOU AIN'T NEVER BEEN TO ABYSS'S DOMAIN EITHER!
THE ORB OF ETERNITY RECENTLY GRANTED ME A TASTE OF THAT REALITY.
IT SHOULD SUFFICE.
TERRIFIC.
HANDS TOGETHER, GANG.
IT'S TIME TO GO STOMPIN' WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD.


BEHOLD THE STRONGHOLD OF COUNT ABYSS!
WHAT NOW?
WE ACTUALLY MADE IT!
WE SNEAK INTO THE CASTLE AND RESCUE MAYA BEFORE THE COUNT IS EVEN AWARE OF OUR PRESENCE.
WHY DO I HAVE THE FEELING THAT'S GOING TO BE A LOT EASIER SAID THAN DONE...?
YOUR NATURAL PESSIMISM IS SHOWING, GAMORA.
THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE IS IN OUR FAVOR.
ABSOLUTELY NO ONE KNOWS WE ARE HERE.
HUH, MR. WARLOCK...
NEXT:
RESCUE!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ADAM AND THE WATCH TRAVELED TO THIS DIFFERENT DIMENSION TO RESCUE MAYA, WITH WHOM ADAM HAS FALLEN HELPLESSLY IN LOVE.

SHE WAS KIDNAPPED BY THE OMNIPOTENT RULER OF THIS REALITY, COUNT ABYSS, WHO WAS ALSO THE ARCHITECT OF ADAM AND MAYA'S MUTUAL DESIRE.

COUNT ABYSS, WHOSE SOLE CONCERN THESE DAYS IS GAINING POSSESSION OF ADAM'S SOUL GEM!

BUT WHEN THE WATCH ARRIVES, THEY CONFRONT...

SO MUCH FOR OUR SNEAK ATTACK! COUNT ABYSS COULD BE LURKING ANYWHERE!

DRAX POUND WHITE FACE!

A FELLOW WARRIOR IS WHO I BE! ADAM WARLOCK, TELL YOUR COMRADES THAT DARKLORE IS NOT THEIR ENEMY!

NO, HE'S ON OUR SIDE.

I HOPE.

I HOPE SO, TOO, ADAM. HE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE PHASED BY MY ROCK!

LEMME OUTTA HERE!

WHEREVER HERE IS THAT IS...

THE STRONGHOLD OF COUNT ABYSS...
WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE IN LOVE, MAYA? IS IT AN EMOTION WORTH DYING FOR?
YOU MAY HAVE TRICKED ME INTO DRINKING THE SAME LOVE POTION AS ADAM, BUT I WELCOME YOUR DECEIT!
I PITY YOU, ABYSS-- YOU WILL NEVER KNOW THE SWEET PAIN OF LOVE.
IF PAIN IS YOUR PLEASURE, I AM ONLY TOO HAPPY TO OBLIGE.
IF IT IS MY LOVE THAT DRAWS ADAM EVER CLOSER TO YOUR TRAP--
--THEN LET ME END IT--ALONG WITH MY LIFE!
SUICIDE? LIKE SOME LOVESICK CHILD.
OH NO, IN MY UNIVERSE, PEOPLE LIVE AND DIE TO MY SCHEDULE!
OH, ADAM, I HAVE FAILED YOU.

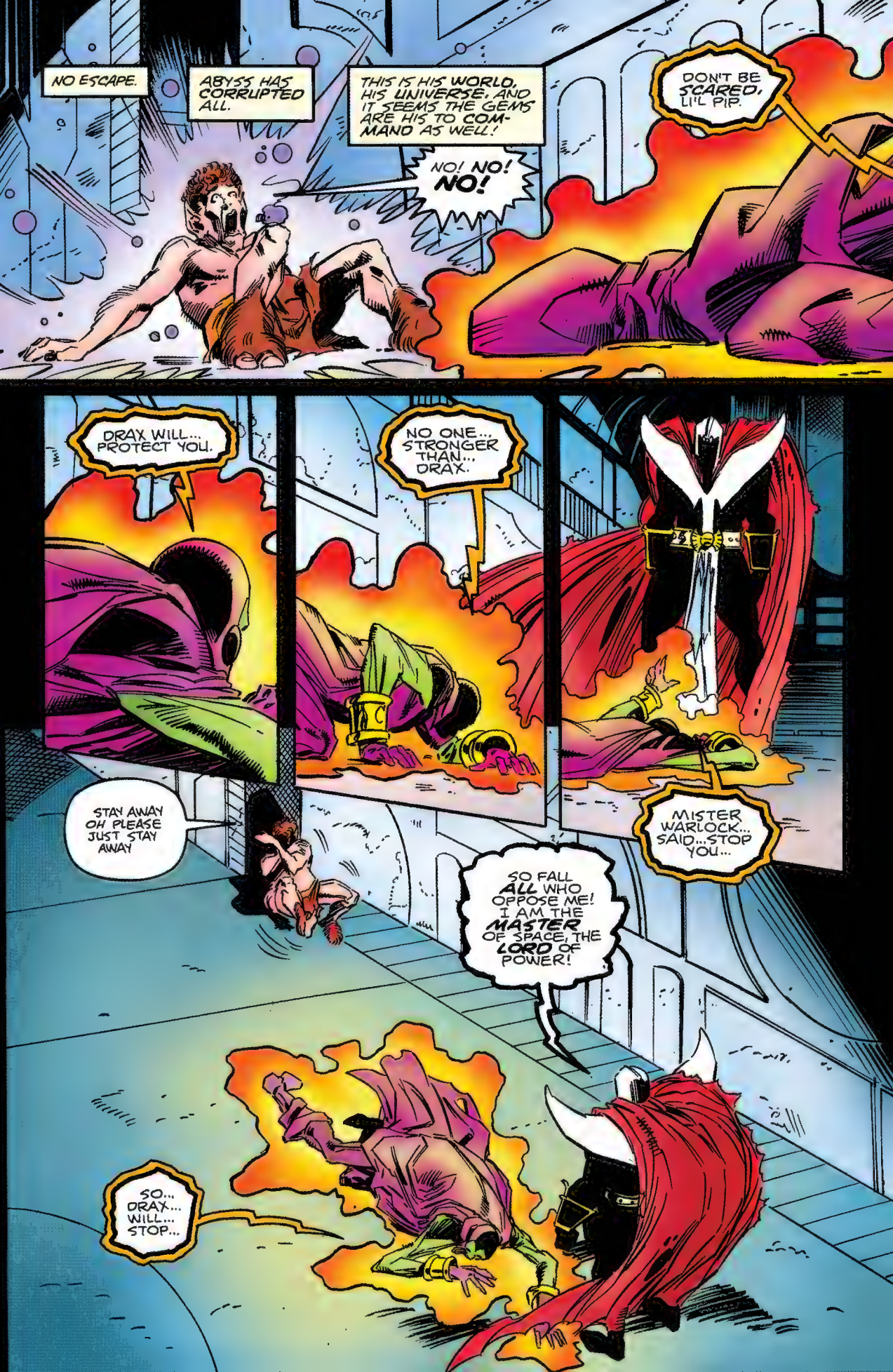
LET US NOT FORGET THAT IN THIS DIMENSION, ABYSS IS SUPREME.
I SUGGEST A MULTIPLE STRIKE, HITTING ABYSS, THE DEMONS, HIS CASTLE, AND RESCUING MAYA ALL AT ONCE.
WE WILL BREAK INTO TEAMS OF TWO.
DARKLORE AND I, MEER'LYN, WILL STICK TOGETHER.
ANCIENT IS OUR SCORE WITH THIS DEMONIC DARK LORD! WE WOULD SETTLE IN FULL!
PIP, YOU AND DRAX TAKE ON THE DEMONS.
GAMORA AND MAXAM WILL--
NO WAY AM I WORKING WITH HIM!
YOU KNOW I DON'T TRUST THE CREEP!
THANKS FOR BEING CANDID, GAMORA!
MAXAM AND I WILL SEARCH FOR MAYA, ADAM.
WE ARE MEANT TO BE A TEAM, GAMORA--WE ARE FRIENDS--WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER--
THERE IS NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, GAMORA.
IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION.
WHY IS EVERY-ONE SHOUTING?
THEY'RE JUST SORE 'CAUSE THEY'RE NOT ON MY TEAM.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT ME, MOON-DRAGON?
IF I COULD GET PAST YOUR PSYCHIC DEFENSES, I MIGHT KNOW THE ANSWER.
COME, WE FACE A BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND SOULS.

DEEP WITHIN THIS DARK LORD'S DOMAIN--
--IS A DOOR TO DIVERSE DIMENSIONS, AND UNTOLD WORLDS--
--MOST OF THEM CRUSHED UNDER THE HEEL OF ABYSS.
THE DOOR TRANSPORTS HIM INSTANTLY TO THE INNER CHAMBER OF THE ALIEN KNOWN AS...
...ZALKOR!
AN ANCIENT COSMIC BEING WHOSE NEAR LIMITLESS AND GODLIKE POWERS ARE ABYSS'S TO COMMAND.
BESTIR YOUR BESSOTTED BRAIN, ZALKOR.
YOUR KALORAIN COMMANDS!
I NEED AID IN OVERCOMING THE INFINITY WATCH. MY OMNIPOTENCE MUST NOT BE CHALLENGED.
BARGAINS ARE MADE, AND THE PRICE--THE FEEDING OF A DESIRE, WITH A FEW LEAVES OF SKRIMBLATT--
--ALWAYS LEFT JUST OUT OF REACH OF THE HUGE ALIEN. SUCH SIMPLE LEAVES HOLD MANY A DREAM.

THIS IS COOL... JUST RUN AROUND THE RAMPARTS, CHASE A FEW DEMONS--
--WITH LUCK, ADAM AND THE WATCH WILL HAVE DEALT WITH ABYSS...
...AND WE CAN JUST PICK UP THE PIECES...
DOES HE KNOW THAT?
DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT ANY-ONE OR ANYTHING CAN CATCH ABYSS UNAWARES?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? AN INVITATION?
GO GET HIM!

YOUR POWER IS AUGMENTED BY THE UNFATHOMABLE ENERGY OF AN INFINITY GEM.
IT FEEDS YOUR FORMIDABLE MIGHT.
POWER THAT EVEN I WOULD HAVE A HARD TIME STANDING UP AGAINST.
BUT WHAT IF THAT POWER WAS TO FEED ON YOU INSTEAD?
TO EAT YOU UP FROM THE INSIDE!
WHAT'S KEEPING YOU?
NO SLACKING. PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT!

SOMETHING WRONG, LI'L PIP!
I FEEL STRENGTH... GOING... GOING... LIKE I BE... TIN SCARECROW!
SORRY... MR. WARLOCK... DRAX TRIED--
--AND FAILED!
TIME FOR THE CAVALRY!
HEY! SOMETHING --DON'T FEEL-- RIGHT --
AARGH!


NO ESCAPE.
ABYSS HAS CORRUPTED ALL.
THIS IS HIS WORLD, HIS UNIVERSE, AND IT SEEMS THE GEMS ARE HIS TO COMMAND AS WELL!
NO! NO! NO!
DON'T BE SCARED, LI'L PIP.
DRAX WILL... PROTECT YOU.
NO ONE... STRONGER THAN... DRAX.
STAY AWAY OH PLEASE JUST STAY AWAY
MISTER WARLOCK... SAID... STOP YOU...
SO FALL ALL WHO OPPOSE ME! I AM THE MASTER OF SPACE, THE LORD OF POWER!
SO... DRAX... WILL... STOP...

MY MAGICS WILL GAIN US ENTRANCE TO ABYSS'S INNER SANCTUM.
AND WITH THE MYSTIC TALISMAN, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME HIM!
THEN I CAN LOOK FORWARD TO A LITTLE BIT OF PEACE IN THIS NEWLY LIBERATED WORLD.
BUT, AT THE EXACT SAME MOMENT THAT ABYSS STANDS BEFORE PIP AND DRAX, HE ALSO CONFRONTS DARKLORE AND MEER'LYN.
FOR HE IS THE FORCE-- ALL SEEING, ALL KNOWING, ALL POWERFUL.
WELCOME, DARKLORE. ARE YOU PREPARED TO DINE WITH THE DEVIL?

DON'T TRUST HIM, MASTER.
DARKLORE, I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU. YOU ARE FREE TO DEPART.
I HAVE BEEN OBSERVING YOUR GROSS MISUSE OF POWER FROM A NEIGHBORING DIMENSION.
I KNEW IT WOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU TURNED YOUR ATTENTIONS OUTSIDE YOUR LIMITED UNIVERSE.
I HAVE GAINED KNOWLEDGE--
--MYSTIC TALISMANS--
--THAT WILL SEE YOU IN HADES.
THE AIR CRACKLES WITH A SMELL SO ANCIENT, SO FEARSOME...
...THAT NOTHING SHOULD STAND IN ITS WAKE.
WHETHER IT BE SCIENCE OR SORCERY, NO ONE CONTROLS ABYSS!

NOW IS THE TIME--
--WHILE MY MASTER TAKES HIS FULL WRATH.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO STRIKE WITH THE MAGIC CHARMS...
WHAT'S THIS?
IT LOOKS LIKE... A BUG!
A DEAD BUG!

MEER'
LYN!
AARRGHH!
HOW DO YOU COPE WITH THE DEATH OF YOUR FAMILIAR?
I CAN'T CONTROL THE MYSTIC ENERGIES!
I NEED MEER'LYN TO CHANNEL AND DIRECT THEM!
MEER'LYN, MY FAITHFUL--
THEY ARE BUILDING WITHIN ME!
HOW PATHETIC!

AND AT EXACTLY THE SAME TIME...
WHAT A MARVELOUS MIND --
--WITH SUCH POWER, THERE IS NO END TO WHAT MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED.
MOONY HAS HIM...OR DOES SHE? NO TELLING WHICH WAY THIS BATTLE OF WILLS MIGHT GO.
THEIR MINDS ARE LOCKED IN DEADLY THOUGHTS. ABYSS LETS A COILED SIBILANT NOTION SNAKE OUT TOWARD MOON-DRAGON--RIDING THE MINDSTREAM.
I TRULY BELIEVED WE WERE EQUALLY MATCHED. BUT HE'S JUST PLAYING WITH ME.
I CAN FEEL HIS EVIL THOUGHTS REACHING OUT FOR ME!

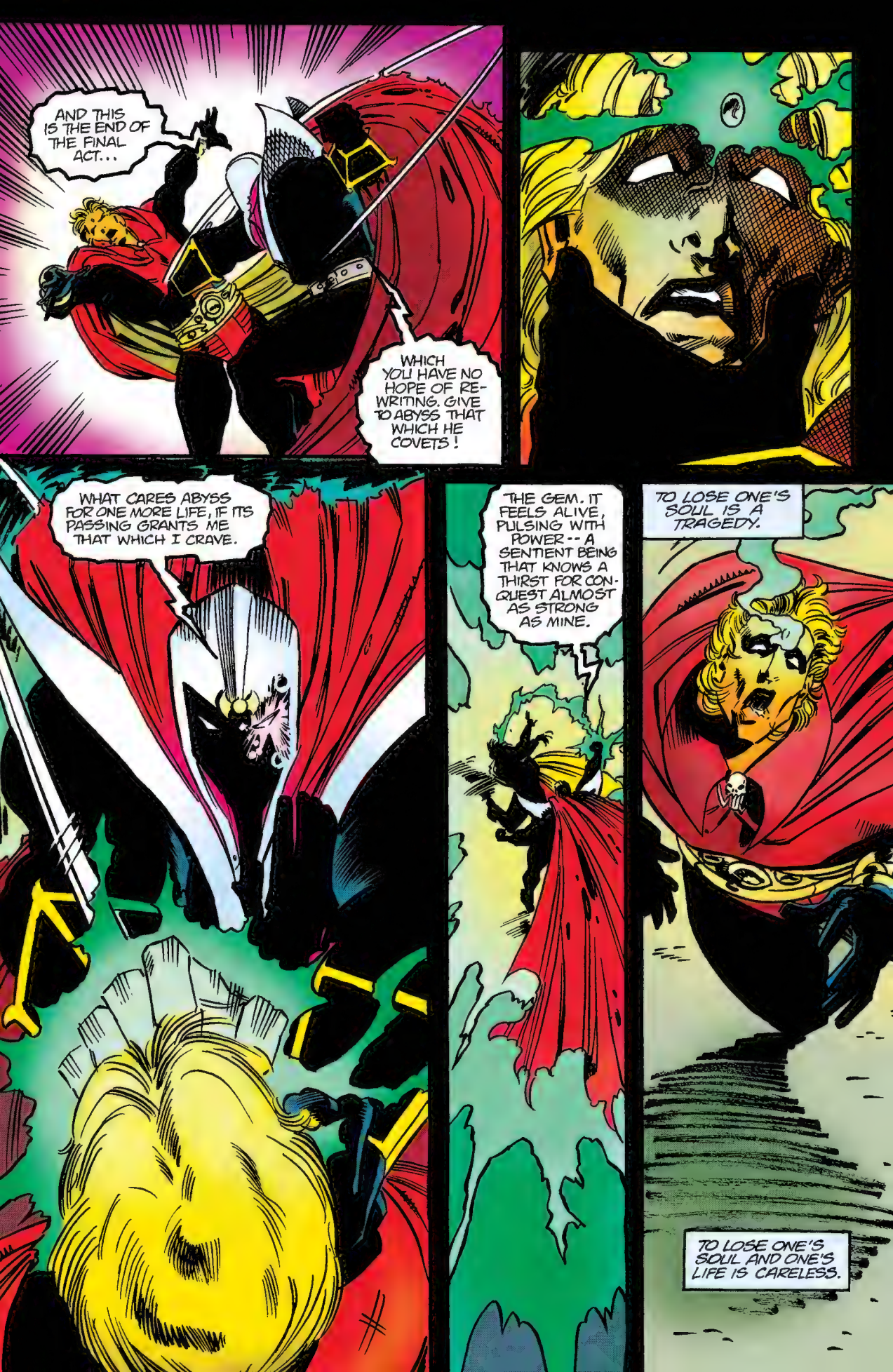
IT HAPPENS SO QUICKLY, YET IT SEEMS SO AGONIZINGLY SLOW.
ABYSS ENCLOSES EVERYTHING BUT HER MOUTH, LEAVING HER TIME FOR ONE FINAL PIERCING SCREAM.
A SCREAM THAT LEAVES MAXAM'S BACK COLD WITH DAMP SWEAT.
OKAY ABYSS, WE'VE SEEN WHAT YOU CAN DO PLAYING MIND GAMES, BUT I'M GETTING PHYSICAL!
AND I'M NOT GOING TO STOP UNTIL YOU ARE A SHADOW SPLATTERED ON THE FLOOR!
YOU, MY DEAR MAXAM, ARE THE MOST BOORISH OF ALL.

DO YOU TRULY BELIEVE YOU CAN WITH-STAND THE TOUCH OF ABYSS?
AHH, FOOLISH MAXAM, WARRIOR FROM THE FUTURE.
SO, YOU CAME BACK TO THE PRESENT TO KILL WARLOCK-- BUT YOU DON'T REMEMBER WHY!
BUT I NOW KNOW-- IN FACT, I KNOW EVERYTHING YOU EVER KNEW!
AND YOUR FEEBLE BRAIN HAS BEEN WIPED CLEAN.
SO FALL ALL WHO CON-FRONT ABYSS.

AT THAT EXACT MOMENT...
WHAT ARROGANCE, WARLOCK, TO THINK YOU COULD BETTER ME IN MY OWN DIMENSION.
OH, ADAM, WHY DID YOU COME FOR ME?
OH, ADAM, WHY DID YOU BOTHER AT ALL?
YOUR MEGALOMANIACAL DREAMS MUST COME TO AND END, ABYSS. YOU HAVE LAIN WASTE TO MANY WORLDS AND COUNTLESS LIVES, ALL TO FULFILL AN EMPTY QUEST.
YOUR DREAMS OF CONQUEST ARE FUELED BY A LACK: A LACK OF COMPASSION, A LACK OF LOVE, AND A LACK OF SOUL.
YOU HAVE MANAGED TO CORRUPT A NOBLE PURPOSE, THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE FOR IT'S OWN SAKE, BY TRYING TO POSSESS IT.
I FIGHT NOT JUST FOR ONE HEART, BUT FOR MANY SOULS.
IS THIS THE PRICE I PAY FOR THE SOUL GEM; LISTENING TO YOUR BORING DRIVEL? YOU SEEK TO INJURE ME WITH THE SHEER WEIGHT OF YOUR WORDS?
I DESIRE ONLY ONE THING FROM YOU, ADAM, --YOU ON YOUR KNEES.

ADAM SAID I WAS TO RESCUE MAYA, BUT I HAVE A CHANCE TO CUT ABYSS!
ONLY IN YOUR WILDEST RAVINGS AND YOUR MOST CRAZED OF DREAMS.
HOLDER OF THE TIME GEM, IT NOW HOLDS YOU. TIME-LESS. FROZEN IN THE ACT OF PERFIDY.
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG--SOON YOU WILL JOIN MAYA IN SERVING ABYSS'S EVERY WHIM AND DESIRE.
SOMETHING IN ADAM BREAKS AS HE SEES GAMORA, THE WOMAN HE HAS LOVED, AND MAYA, THE WOMAN HE LOVES, HELD IN SUCH CONTEMPT.

HE UNLEASHES A FORCE SO TERRIBLE THAT IT COULD SHATTER WORLDS. SO FORMIDABLE THAT IT COULD SHAKE THE VERY STARS THEMSELVES.
BUT ABYSS STANDS.
THERE IS NO PLACE IN THIS DIMENSION FOR DEMONS LIKE YOU.
YOU'RE EVIL INCARNATE STRIDING SOME COSMIC STAGE.
I AM BUT THE DARKLING REFLECTION OF YOUR SOUL.
IF THIS BE A PLAY, IT IS FOR ME A COMEDY-- FOR YOU A TRAGEDY.
SHA A BOOM


AND THIS IS THE END OF THE FINAL ACT...
WHICH YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF RE-WRITING. GIVE TO ABYSS THAT WHICH HE COVETS!
WHAT CARES ABYSS FOR ONE MORE LIFE, IF ITS PASSING GRANTS ME THAT WHICH I CRAVE.
THE GEM. IT FEELS ALIVE, PULSING WITH POWER -- A SENTIENT BEING THAT KNOWS A THIRST FOR CONQUEST ALMOST AS STRONG AS MINE.
TO LOSE ONE'S SOUL IS A TRAGEDY.
TO LOSE ONE'S SOUL AND ONE'S LIFE IS CARELESS.

AT LAST, ABYSS WILL KNOW PEACE!
ALL CAN HEAR ABYSS'S LAUGHTER. THEY LIFT THEIR HEADS IN...
...DESPAIR AND RAGE--
HELPLESSNESS AND HOPE--
--MINDLESS TERROR.
"I HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO FIGHT." --JOHN PAUL JONES
NEXT
END PLAY

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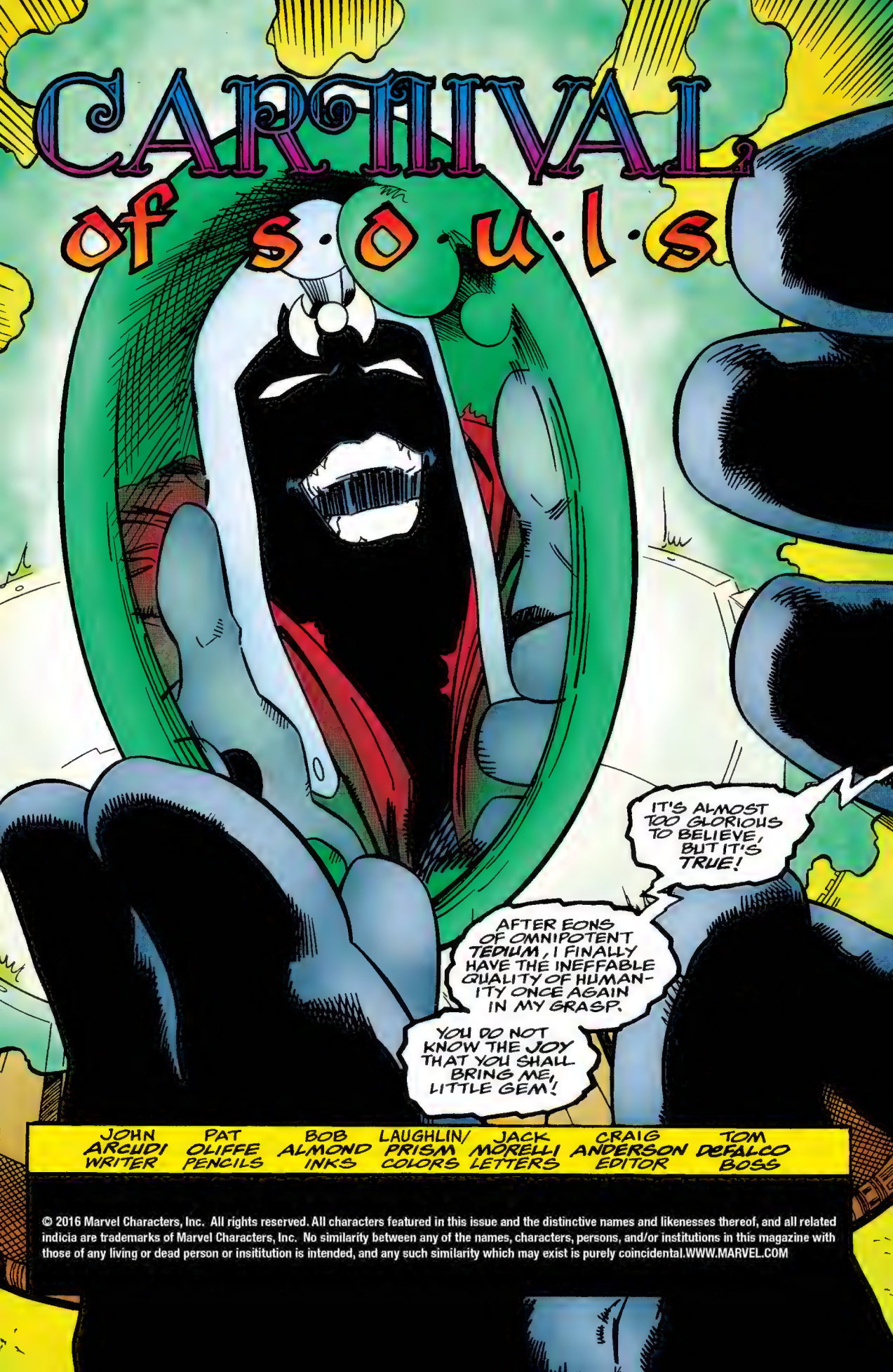

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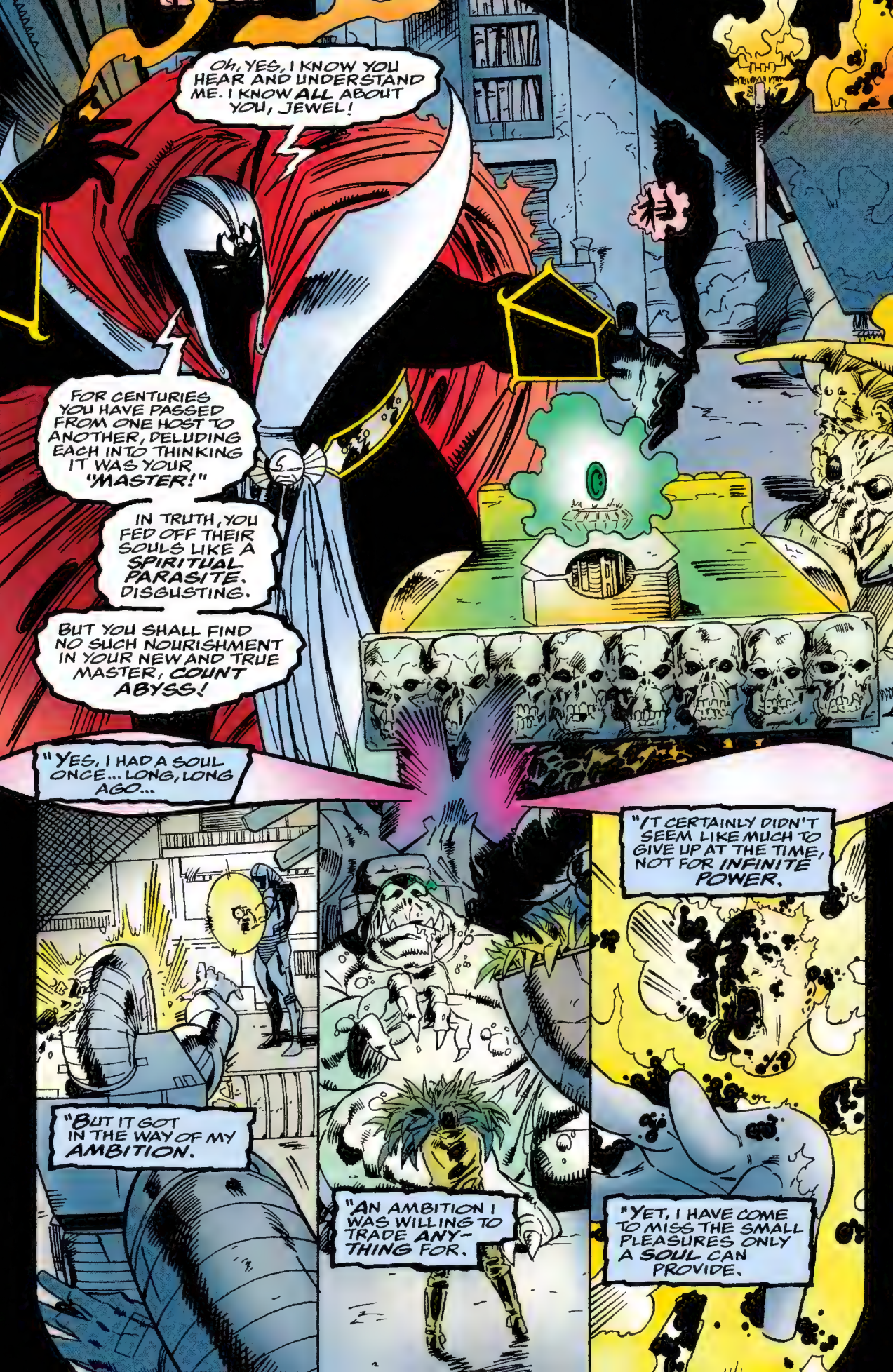
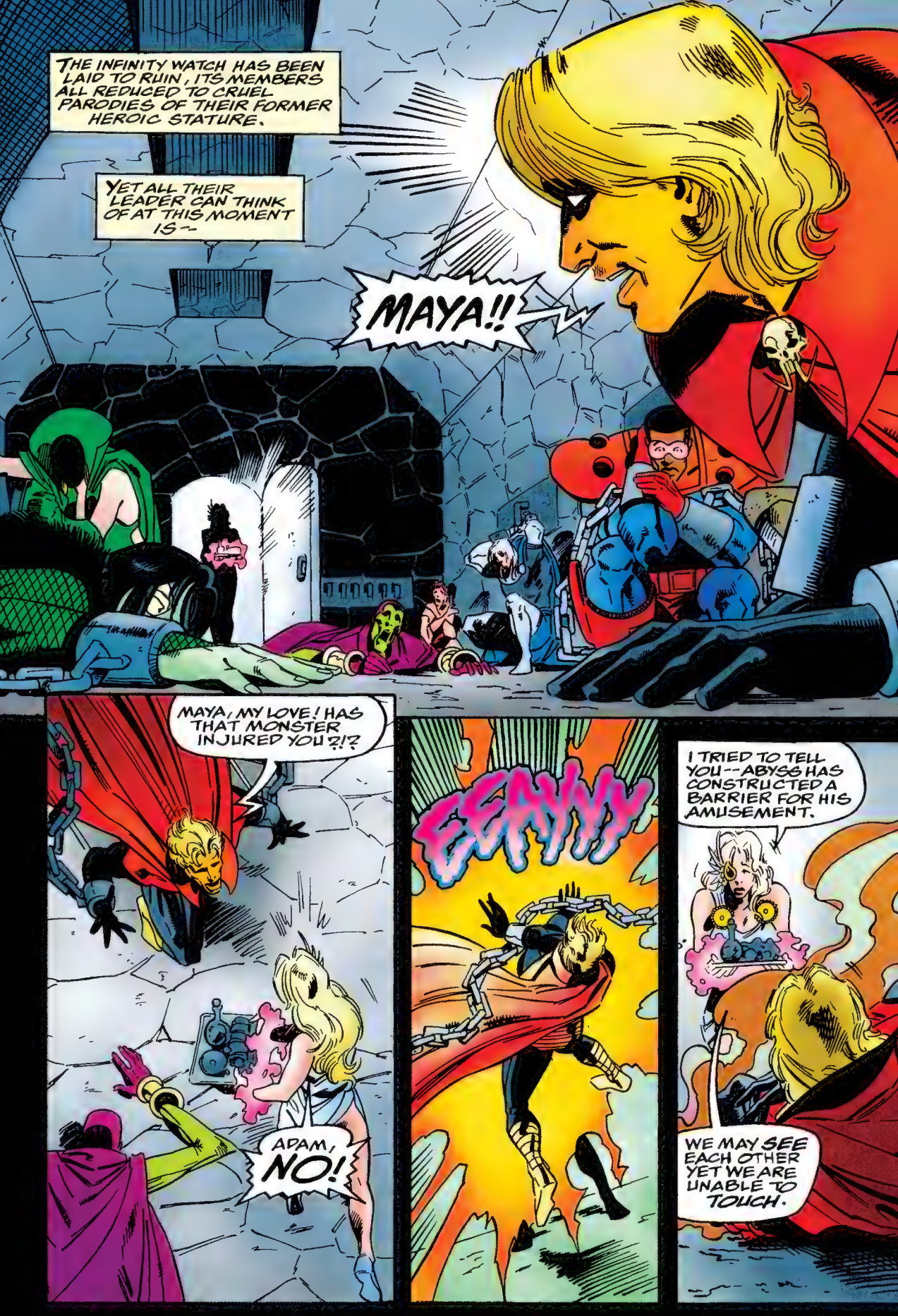

OH, YES, I KNOW YOU HEAR AND UNDERSTAND ME. I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, JEWEL!
FOR CENTURIES YOU HAVE PASSED FROM ONE HOST TO ANOTHER, DELUDING EACH INTO THINKING IT WAS YOUR "MASTER!"
IN TRUTH, YOU FED OFF THEIR SOULS LIKE A SPIRITUAL PARASITE. DISGUSTING.
BUT YOU SHALL FIND NO SUCH NOURISHMENT IN YOUR NEW AND TRUE MASTER, COUNT ABYSS!
"YES, I HAD A SOUL ONCE... LONG, LONG AGO...
"BUT IT GOT IN THE WAY OF MY AMBITION.
"AN AMBITION I WAS WILLING TO TRADE ANY-THING FOR.
"IT CERTAINLY DIDN'T SEEM LIKE MUCH TO GIVE UP AT THE TIME, NOT FOR INFINITE POWER.
"YET, I HAVE COME TO MISS THE SMALL PLEASURES ONLY A SOUL CAN PROVIDE.

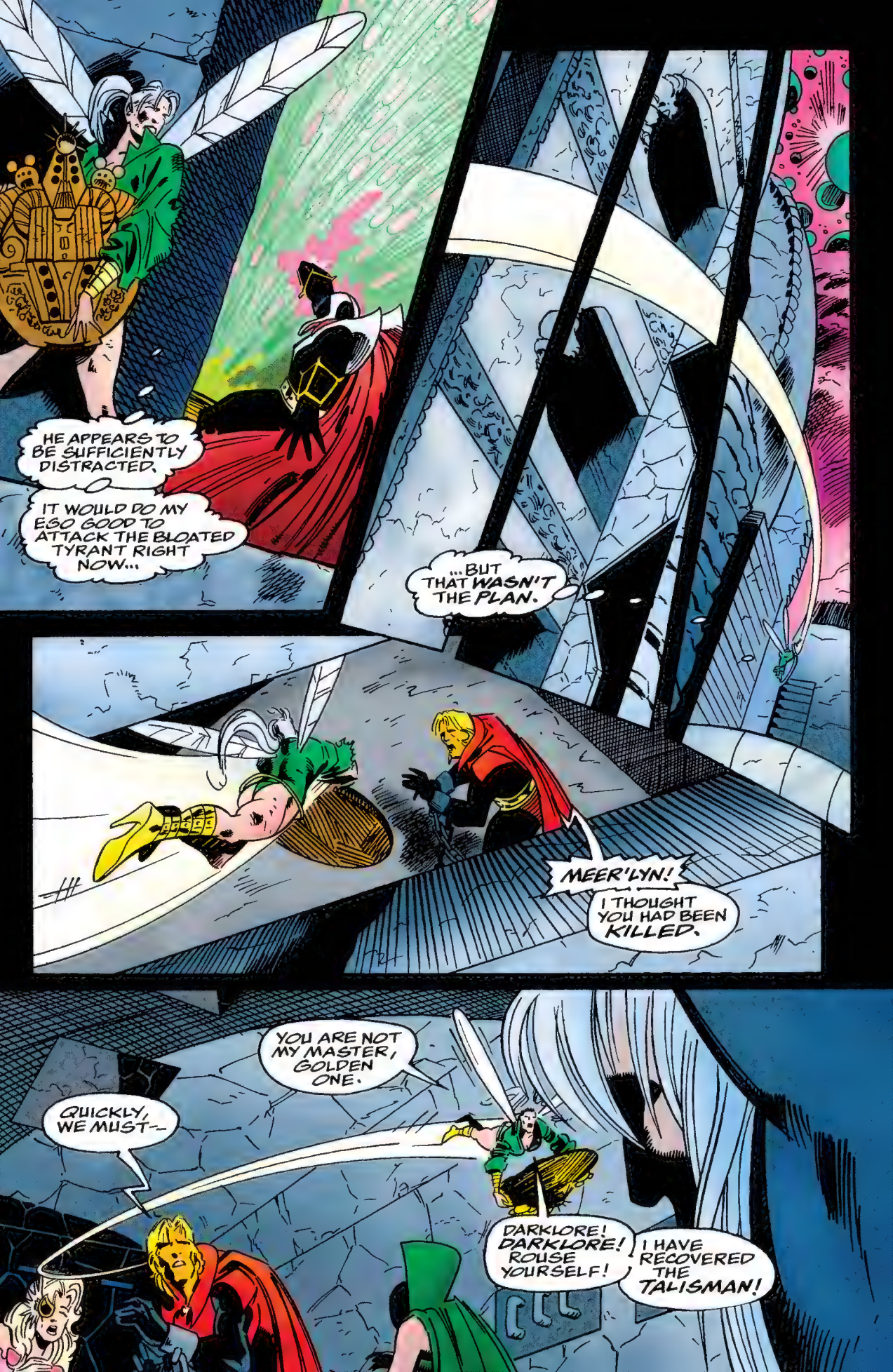
SO I LURED YOUR PRESENT MASTER HERE, TO MY REALM, WITH THE BAIT OF BEAUTY AND LOVE.
AND NOW YOU HAVE THE GEM, JUST AS PROMISED. ADAM WARLOCK IS OF NO FURTHER USE TO YOU.
I BEG OF YOU, IF ALL MY YEARS OF SERVICE MEAN ANYTHING-- PLEASE RELEASE HIM.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, DEAR MAYA!
I HAVE VERY SPECIAL PLANS FOR YOUR BELOVED AND HIS FOOLISH COMPANIONS.
NOW TAKE THIS FOOD DOWN TO OUR GUESTS.
WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED, WE SHALL "NEGOTIATE" YOUR RELEASE FROM THOSE SHACKLES.
"OH, AND DO TRY TO REMEMBER THAT THE PASSION BETWEEN YOU AND WARLOCK IS BY DESIGN, NOT BY CHOICE.
"ZALKOR'S SORCERY IN THE FORM OF THAT LOVE POTION YOU SHARED IS WHAT BINDS YOU--
"--NOTHING MORE.
"IT IS A FALSE LOVE THAT IS BREAKING YOUR HEART.
"PERHAPS YOU CAN TAKE SOME COMFORT FROM THAT."

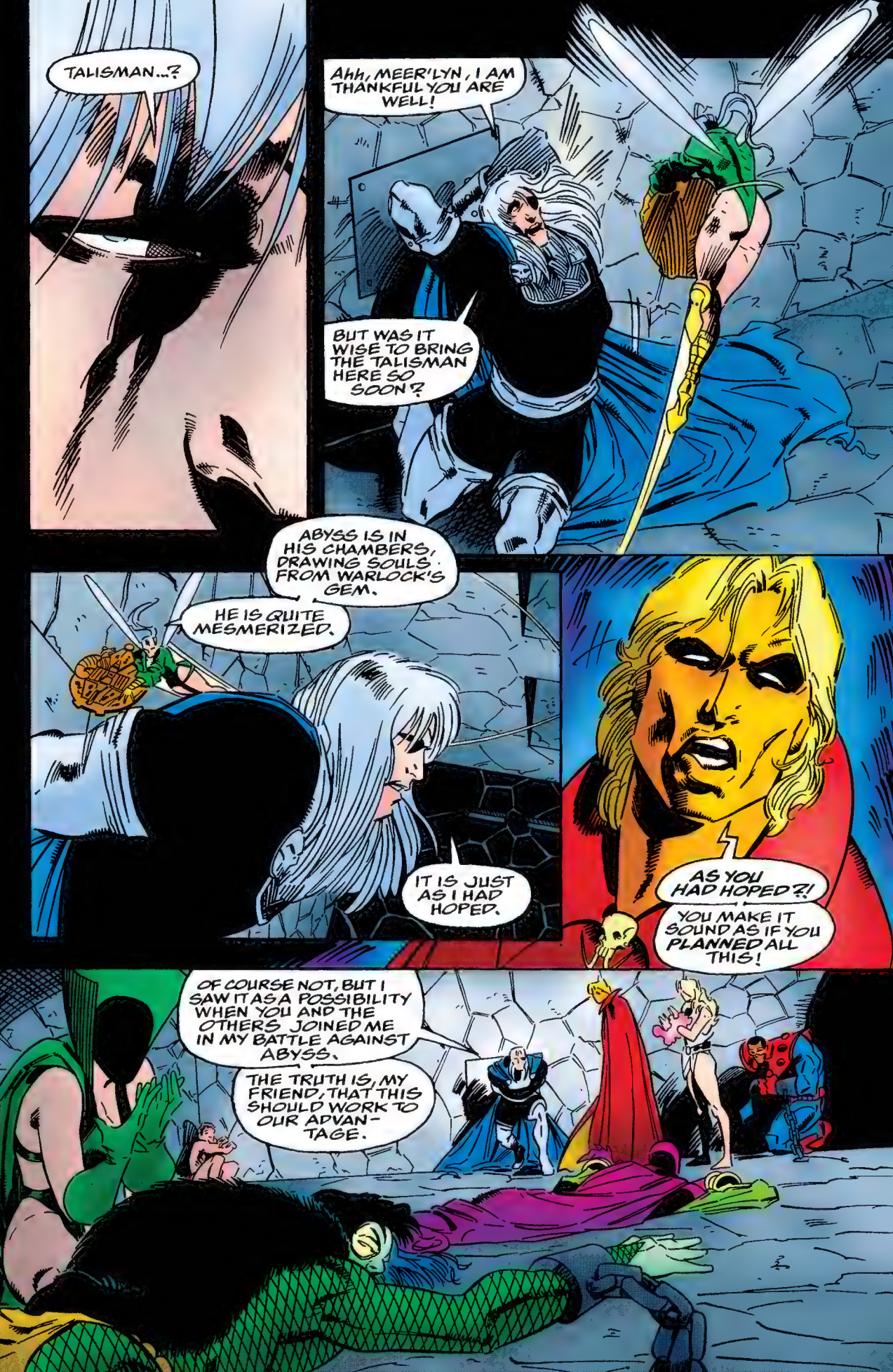

THE INFINITY WATCH HAS BEEN LAID TO RUIN, ITS MEMBERS ALL REDUCED TO CRUEL PARODIES OF THEIR FORMER HEROIC STATURE.
YET ALL THEIR LEADER CAN THINK OF AT THIS MOMENT IS --
MAYA!!
MAYA, MY LOVE! HAS THAT MONSTER INJURED YOU?!?
ADAM, NO!
BEAM
I TRIED TO TELL YOU--ABYSS HAS CONSTRUCTED A BARRIER FOR HIS AMUSEMENT.
WE MAY SEE EACH OTHER YET WE ARE UNABLE TO TOUCH.

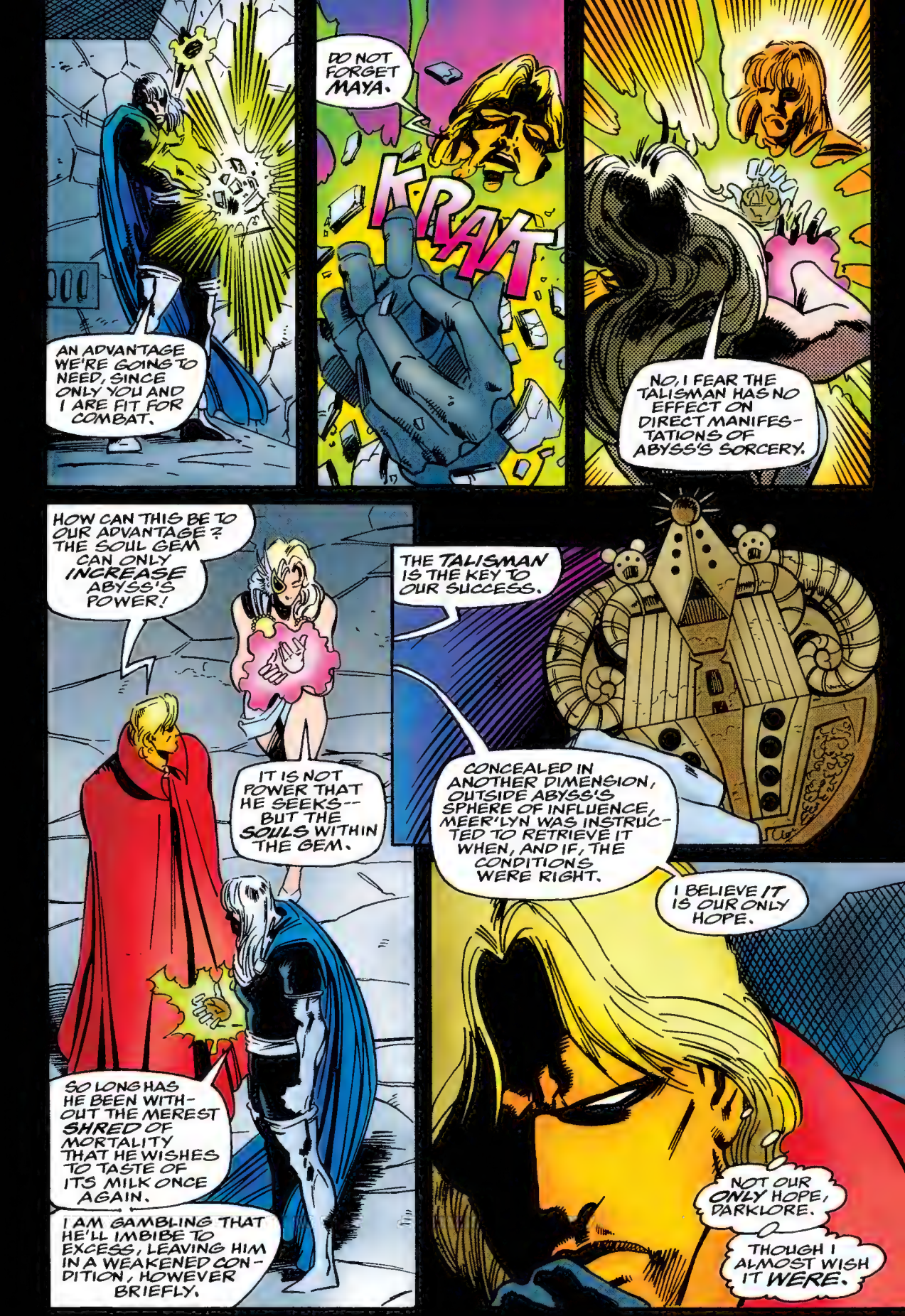
I SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T SURPRISE ME THAT HE SHOULD GLEAN HUMOR FROM THAT.
WHAT DOES SURPRISE ME IS THAT I, AND THE OTHERS, STILL LIVE AT ALL.
MURDER, EVEN GENOCIDE, IS NOTHING TO THAT DEPRAVED MONSTER. IT ONLY BORES HIM.
TORTURE, IN ALL ITS FORMS, FURNISHES HIM HIS ENTER-TAINMENT.
THE CREATURES YOU BATTLED BACK ON YOUR WORLD WERE NOT THE DEMONS THAT THEY APPEARED.
EACH WAS ONCE HUMAN, A SUBJECT OF THIS KINGDOM, CONDEMNED BY ABYSS TO LIVE OUT THEIR DAYS AS HIS DEFORMED SLAVES.
SO YOU SEE, YOUR FATE IS SUBJECT TO HIS CRUEL WHIM.
AND WITH THE SOUL GEM IN HIS POSSESSION, WHO CAN SAY JUST WHERE THAT WHIM MAY LEAD HIM?
FOR WITHIN THAT TINY STONE EXISTS THE VAST POWER OF AN ENTIRE WORLD.

SOUL WORLD.
A WORLD WHERE NO ONE MUST ASK OF ANOTHER, "HOW ARE YOU?", BECAUSE ALL ARE AT PEACE, ALL ARE WELL IN THE ONENESS OF THE SOUL GEM.
DARK DAYS ARE UNKNOWN HERE.
STORMS ARE UNHEARD OF.
TERROR, UNIMAGINABLE.

SUCKED FROM THEIR TRANQUIL EXISTENCE, A HUNDRED THOUSAND SOULS RUSH THROUGH THE FINGERS OF A FOUL AND TAINTING CLUTCH.
NOT ONE OF THEM IS ABSORBED INTO THE YAWNING VACUUM WITHIN THE ABYSS, BUT ALL ARE TOUCHED, SAMPLED LIKE FINE WINES.
AND MUCH LIKE A FINE WINE, THE EXPERIENCE PROVES TO BE--
--INTOXICATING!


HE APPEARS TO BE SUFFICIENTLY DISTRACTED.
IT WOULD DO MY ESO GOOD TO ATTACK THE BLOATED TYRANT RIGHT NOW...
...BUT THAT WASN'T THE PLAN.
MEER'LYN!
I THOUGHT YOU HAD BEEN KILLED.
QUICKLY, WE MUST--
YOU ARE NOT MY MASTER, GOLDEN ONE.
DARKLORE! DARKLORE! ROUSE YOURSELF!
I HAVE RECOVERED THE TALISMAN!


TALISMAN...?
Ahh, MEER'LYN, I AM THANKFUL YOU ARE WELL!
BUT WAS IT WISE TO BRING THE TALISMAN HERE SO SOON?
ABYSS IS IN HIS CHAMBERS, DRAWING SOULS FROM WARLOCK'S GEM.
HE IS QUITE MESMERIZED.
IT IS JUST AS I HAD HOPED.
AS YOU HAD HOPED?!
YOU MAKE IT SOUND AS IF YOU PLANNED ALL THIS!
OF COURSE NOT, BUT I SAW IT AS A POSSIBILITY WHEN YOU AND THE OTHERS JOINED ME IN MY BATTLE AGAINST ABYSS.
THE TRUTH IS, MY FRIEND, THAT THIS SHOULD WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE.


AN ADVANTAGE WE'RE GOING TO NEED, SINCE ONLY YOU AND I ARE FIT FOR COMBAT.
DO NOT FORGET MAYA.
KRAAT
NO, I FEAR THE TALISMAN HAS NO EFFECT ON DIRECT MANIFESTATIONS OF ABYSS'S SORCERY.
HOW CAN THIS BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE? THE SOUL GEM CAN ONLY INCREASE ABYSS'S POWER!
IT IS NOT POWER THAT HE SEEKS-- BUT THE SOULS WITHIN THE GEM.
SO LONG HAS HE BEEN WITHOUT THE MEREST SHRED OF MORTALITY THAT HE WISHES TO TASTE OF ITS MILK ONCE AGAIN.
I AM GAMBLING THAT HE'LL IMBIBE TO EXCESS, LEAVING HIM IN A WEAKENED CONDITION, HOWEVER BRIEFLY.
THE TALISMAN IS THE KEY TO OUR SUCCESS.
CONCEALED IN ANOTHER DIMENSION, OUTSIDE ABYSS'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, MEER'LYN WAS INSTRUCTED TO RETRIEVE IT WHEN, AND IF, THE CONDITIONS WERE RIGHT.
I BELIEVE IT IS OUR ONLY HOPE.
NOT OUR ONLY HOPE, DARKLORE.
THOUGH I ALMOST WISH IT WERE.

BROTHER KRAY-TOR, HAVE YOU BEEN SORELY INJURED?
THAT VERY QUESTION IS ANSWER ENOUGH, BROTHER AUTOLYCUS.
THE UNITY OF SOUL WORLD IS CORRUPTED!
WE HAVE ALL BEEN SORELY INJURED.
AND FROM THOSE WOUNDS ABYSS HAS DRUNK DEEPLY.
THE ALIEN FLAVORS OF LOVE, COMPASSION, LOYALTY AND FAITH HAVE OVERWHELMED HIS PERVERSE PALATE.
HIS SENSES REEL, HIS MIND STILL CLOUDED.
HE IS NOT AT HIS BEST.
uhhh... eh?
RETURN TO YOUR DRUNKEN SLUMBER, FIEND!

YOU'LL SUFFER FAR LESS!
IDIOT!!
YOU THINK ME WEAKENED--BUT HOW COULD YOU FORGET THAT THIS IS MY WORLD TO COMMAND?
YOU ARE WEAKENED, BEAST!
I CAN EASILY MANIPULATE YOUR WIZARDRY--
--AND USE IT AGAINST YOUR OWN CONJURATIONS!
BE ALERT, WARLOCK!
A STRANGE WARMTH EMANATES FROM WHERE IT STRIKES HIS HAND.

IT'S A FEELING THAT TELLS ADAM WARLOCK HE IS, ONCE AGAIN, WHOLE --AND THE WORLD WITHIN THE GLEAMING PEBBLE REJOICES.
DO YOU FEEL IT? ADAM HAS RECOVERED THE GEM.
SOON OUR ONENESS OF BEING WILL BE RESTORED.
INSECTS! YOU TILT AT A GOD!
SO YOU HAVE THE GEM. WHAT NOW?!
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO STOP ME FROM SIMPLY TAKING IT BACK-- AND KILLING YOU IN THE PROCESS?
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, ABYSS, AND I AM WILLING TO GIVE IT TO YOU.
ARE YOU PLEASED WITH YOUR TINY VICTORY?

FORGIVE ME, FRIEND.
BROTHER KRAY-TOR, WHAT IS HAPPENING ??
NO, IT CANNOT BE!
IT CANNOT BE!!
FORGIVE ME!
NOOOOOOOO

it...it writhes within me...
SUCH IS THE SOUL OF A VIRTUOUS MAN.
THE GUILT OF ONE MURDER IS ENOUGH TO PAIN ANY MORTAL.
"BUT YOUR CRIMES MUST CARRY UNTOLD AGONIES OF REMORSE!"
I MUST AWAY...
MANY LEVELS BELOW...
ZALKOR!!
LONG HAVE I SUPPLIED YOU WITH THE SKRIMBLATT UPON WHICH YOU FEAST UPHOLDING MY END OF THE BARGAIN.*
*SEE W.A.T.I.W. #31
NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I REQUIRE YOUR SERVICES!

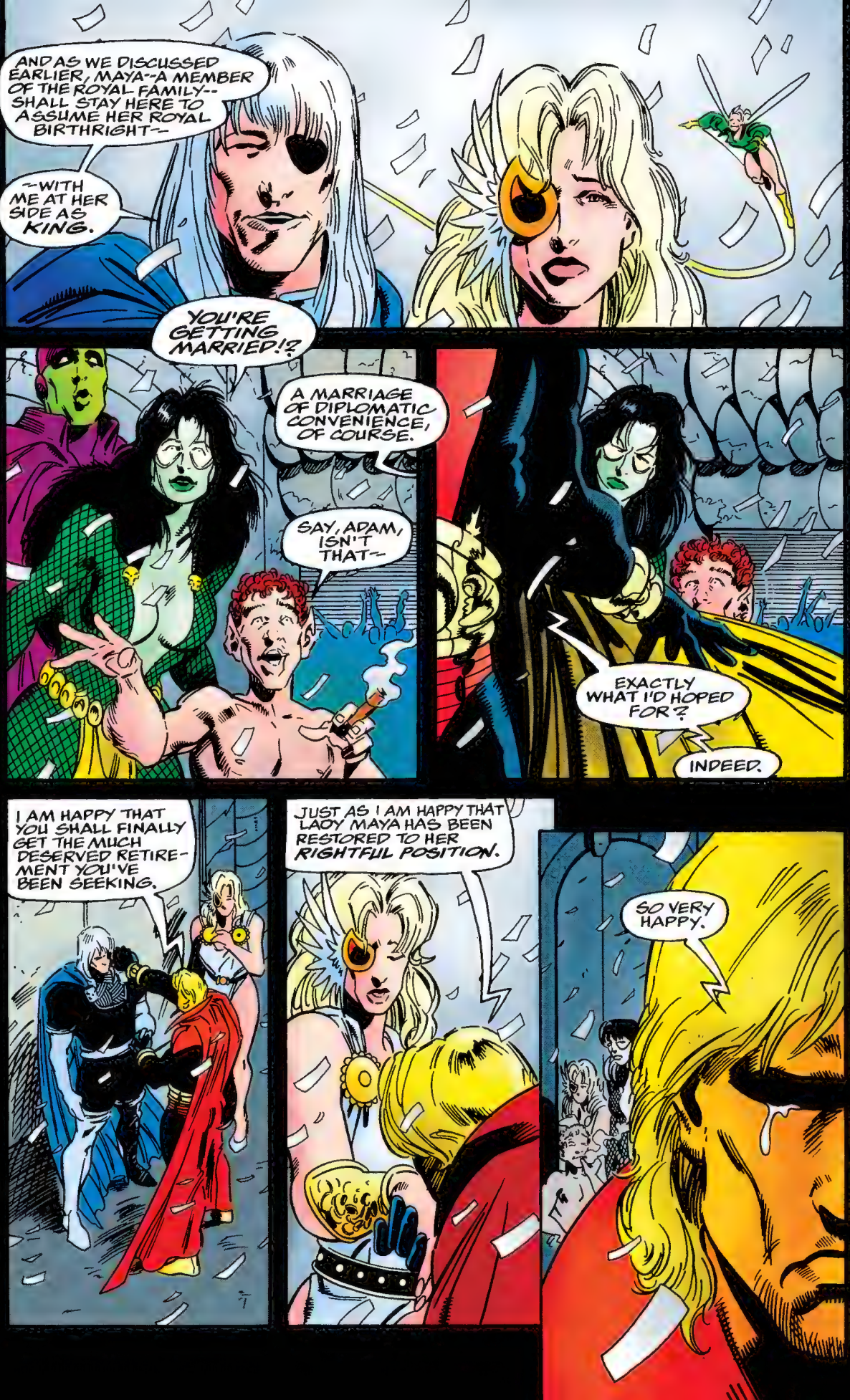
YOU LOOK... FAMILIAR.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! DO YOU NOT KNOW ME?!
IT IS I, ABYSS! YOUR KALORIAN!!
WAIT! OF COURSE!
WITH THIS SOUL INSIDE ME, I CAN NO LONGER QUALIFY!
THEN TAKE IT!! I BEG OF YOU, TAKE IT FROM ME!!
IT IS NOT YOURS TO GIVE, VILE ONE!

PROCEED, DARKLORE. THIS WON'T TAKE LONG.
DO NOT BE OVERCONFIDENT, WARLOCK.
I STILL HAVE POWER.
POWER ENOUGH TO DESTROY YOU!
I...YET LIVE... TYRANT.
YOU HESITATE TO STRIKE THE FATAL BLOW. DOES YOUR NEW-FOUND CONSCIENCE FORBID IT?
CAN IT BE THAT THE VERY QUALITY WHICH STRENGTHENS MY WILL--
--HAS MADE YOURS WEAK?!

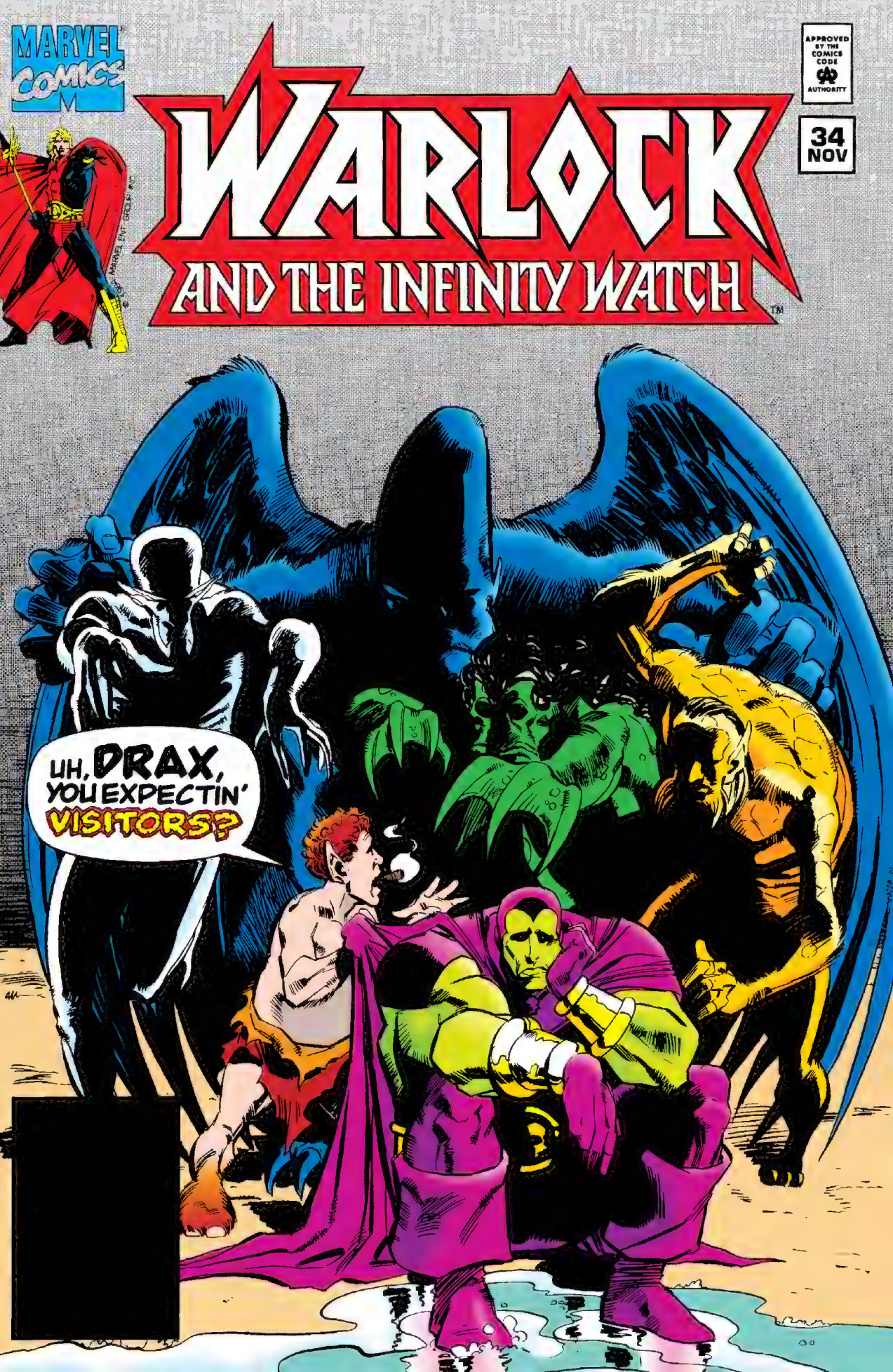
AS THE BATTLE RAGES, DARKLORE EMPLOYS HIS TALISMAN--
--TO OPEN A PORTAL INTO ANOTHER REALITY MANY TIMES REMOVED FROM ABYSS'S REALM OF INFLUENCE.
THE TIMING COULD NOT BE BETTER.
WHAK
I AM UNABLE TO MAINTAIN THE PORTAL, WARLOCK.
YOU MUST ACT NOW!
OF COURSE.
JUST AS SOON AS I RETRIEVE THE BELEAGUERED SPIRIT OF MY FRIEND.
QUICKLY, DARKLORE! SEAL THE PORTAL!

CHEER YOURSELF, WARLOCK.
ABYSS HAS BEEN MAROONED FAR FROM THE ZALKOR, HIS POWER SOURCE. IT WILL TAKE HIM YEARS TO RETURN.
AND IT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED WITH MINIMAL SACRIFICE.
MINIMAL SACRIFICE?
OOHH, BUT YOU CANNOT KNOW.
"YOU CANNOT IMAGINE WHAT HAS BEEN LOST!"
BROTHER KRAY-TOR! YOU HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO US!
BE NOT PAINED. YOU ARE AGAIN AT ONE WITH THE LOVE OF YOUR COMPANIONS!
DON'T TOUCH ME!!
I WANT NONE OF YOUR COMFORT! LEAVE ME BE!
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

SOON...
PUT ME DOWN, YOU BIG GALOOT!
DRAX IS HEALTHY AGAIN, MR. PIP, AND YOU ARE IN ONE PIECE. BOY, IT SURE FEEL GOOD, HUH?
WITH ABYSS REMOVED FROM THIS REALITY, IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT FOR A WIZARD OF MY SKILL TO UNDO THE SORCERY INFLICTED UPON THIS WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE.
HOW MODEST.
OF COURSE, THERE ARE A FEW SPELLS CAST BY THE ZALKOR HIMSELF WHICH I CANNOT UNDO--
--BUT WHEN YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE WELFARE OF AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE, HOW IMPORTANT CAN THOSE FEW THINGS BE?


AND AS WE DISCUSSED EARLIER, MAYA--A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY--SHALL STAY HERE TO ASSUME HER ROYAL BIRTHRIGHT--
--WITH ME AT HER SIDE AS KING.
YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED!?
A MARRIAGE OF DIPLOMATIC CONVENIENCE, OF COURSE.
SAY, ADAM, ISN'T THAT--
EXACTLY WHAT I'D HOPED FOR?
INDEED.
I AM HAPPY THAT YOU SHALL FINALLY GET THE MUCH DESERVED RETIREMENT YOU'VE BEEN SEEKING.
JUST AS I AM HAPPY THAT LADY MAYA HAS BEEN RESTORED TO HER RIGHTFUL POSITION.
SO VERY HAPPY.

Epilogue.
DEEP IN THE BELLY OF THE PALACE--
SKRIMBLATT--
BRING IT BACK TO ME...
--AN ADDICT CRIES OUT FOR HIS OPIATE.
WHERE IS THE SKRIMBLATT?
WERE HE NOT SO POWERFUL...
CAN'T ANYONE BRING SOME TO ME?
...SO IMMENSELY EVIL...
JUST A LITTLE BIT...
HE WOULD ALMOST BE...
please...
...PATHETIC.


MARVEL COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
34 NOV
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
UH, DRAX, YOU EXPECTIN' VISITORS?

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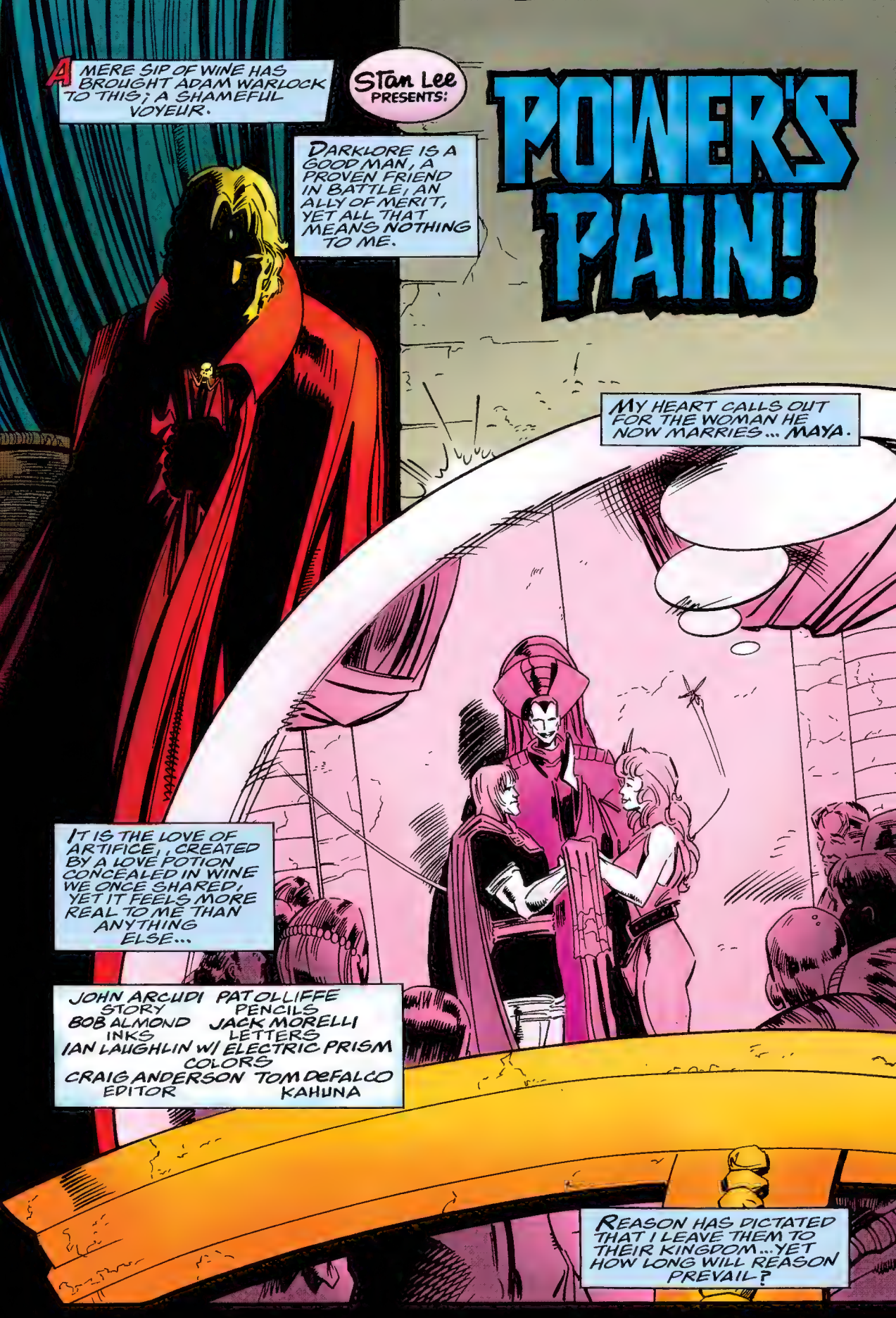
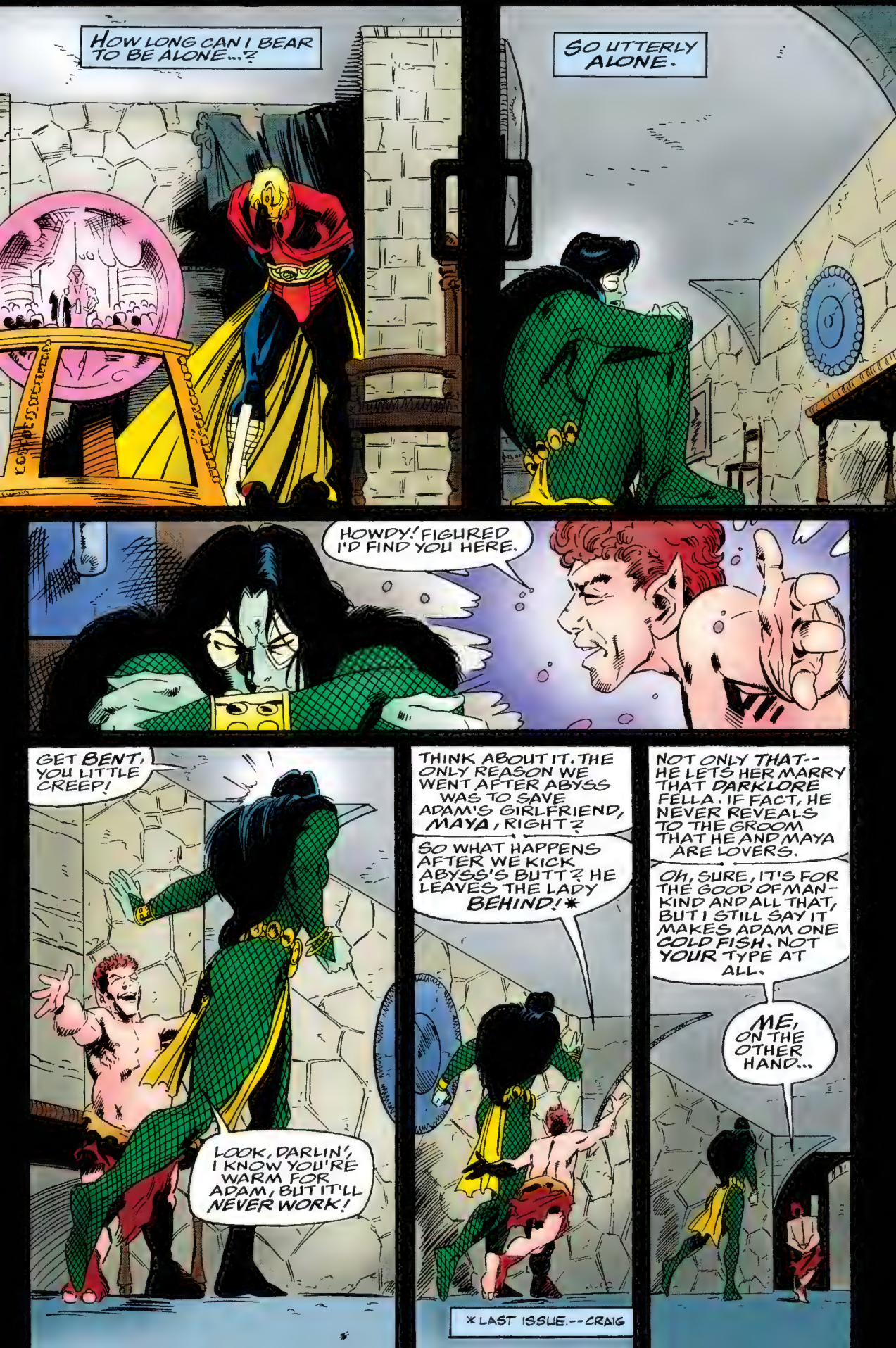
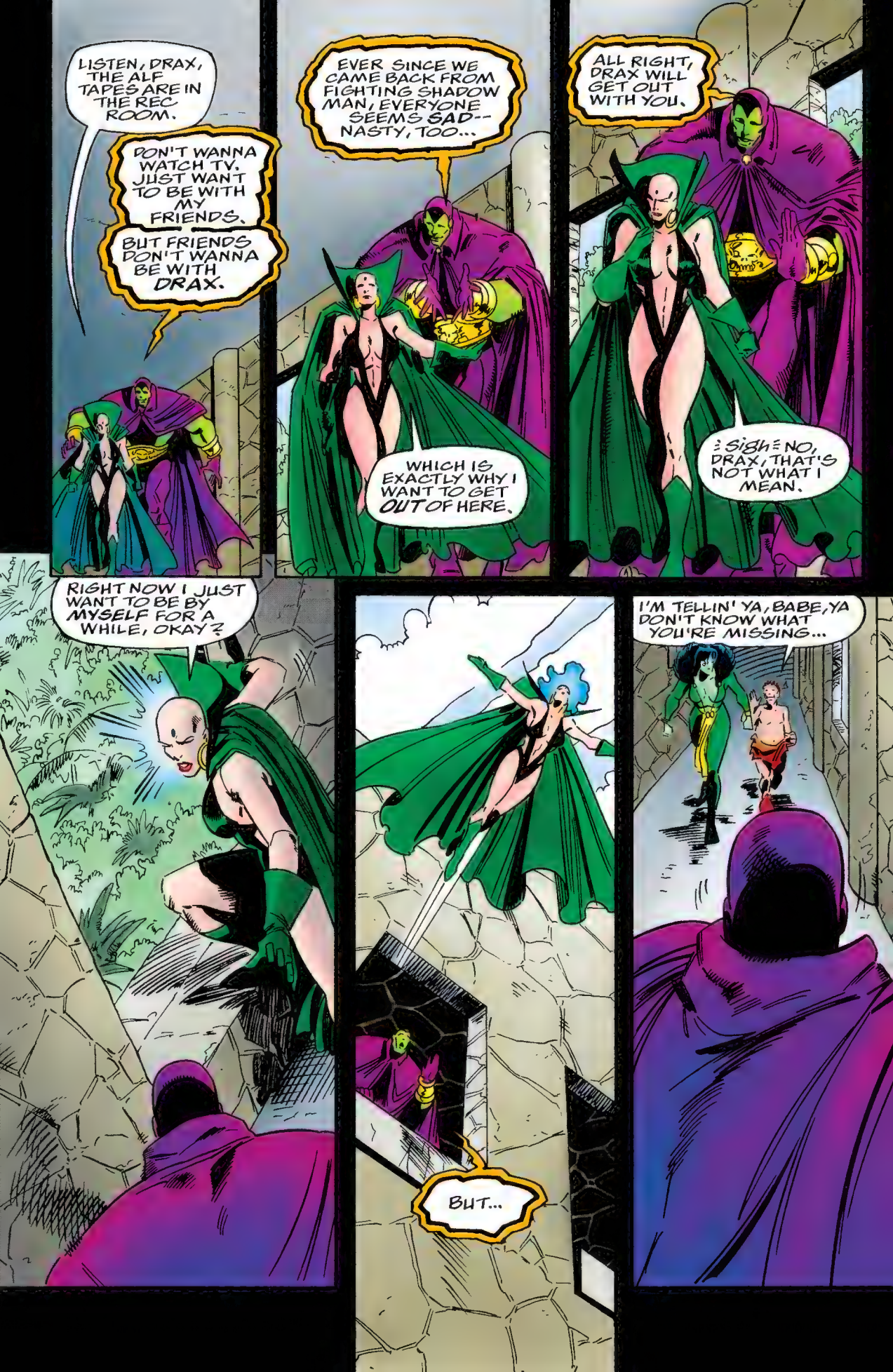

A MERE SIP OF WINE HAS BROUGHT ADAM WARLOCK TO THIS; A SHAMEFUL VOYEUR.
STan Lee PRESENTS:
POWER'S PAIN!
DARKLORE IS A GOOD MAN, A PROVEN FRIEND IN BATTLE, AN ALLY OF MERIT, YET ALL THAT MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
MY HEART CALLS OUT FOR THE WOMAN HE NOW MARRIES... MAYA.
IT IS THE LOVE OF ARTIFICE, CREATED BY A LOVE POTION CONCEALED IN WINE WE ONCE SHARED; YET IT FEELS MORE REAL TO ME THAN ANYTHING ELSE...
JOHN ARCUDI STORY
PAT OLLIFFE PENCILS
BOB ALMOND INKS
JACK MORELLI LETTERS
IAN LAUGHLIN w/ ELECTRIC PRISM COLORS
CRAIG ANDERSON EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO KAHUNA
REASON HAS DICTATED THAT I LEAVE THEM TO THEIR KINGDOM...YET HOW LONG WILL REASON PREVAIL?


HOW LONG CAN I BEAR TO BE ALONE...?
SO UTTERLY ALONE.
HOWDY! FIGURED I'D FIND YOU HERE.
GET BENT, YOU LITTLE CREEP!
LOOK, DARLIN', I KNOW YOU'RE WARM FOR ADAM, BUT IT'LL NEVER WORK!
THINK ABOUT IT. THE ONLY REASON WE WENT AFTER ABYSS WAS TO SAVE ADAM'S GIRLFRIEND, MAYA, RIGHT?
SO WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE KICK ABYSS'S BUTT? HE LEAVES THE LADY BEHIND!*
*LAST ISSUE.--CRAIG
NOT ONLY THAT-- HE LETS HER MARRY THAT DARKLORE FELLA. IF FACT, HE NEVER REVEALS TO THE GROOM THAT HE AND MAYA ARE LOVERS.
OH, SURE, IT'S FOR THE GOOD OF MAN-KIND AND ALL THAT, BUT I STILL SAY IT MAKES ADAM ONE COLD FISH. NOT YOUR TYPE AT ALL.
ME, ON THE OTHER HAND...


LISTEN, DRAX, THE ALF TAPES ARE IN THE REC ROOM.
DON'T WANNA WATCH TV. JUST WANT TO BE WITH MY FRIENDS.
BUT FRIENDS DON'T WANNA BE WITH DRAX.
EVER SINCE WE CAME BACK FROM FIGHTING SHADOW MAN, EVERYONE SEEMS SAD-- NASTY, TOO...
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE.
ALL RIGHT, DRAX WILL GET OUT WITH YOU.
:SIGH= NO, DRAX, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
RIGHT NOW I JUST WANT TO BE BY MYSELF FOR A WHILE, OKAY?
BUT...
I'M TELLIN' YA, BABE, YA DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING...

HI, GUYS!
UNDER-STAND ONE THING RIGHT NOW, PIP. I'D NEVER TOUCH YOU FOR FEAR OF GET-TING WARTS.
I MEAN, A "HEALTHY" GAL LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T GO TO WASTE.
UHHH... GUYS...
WASTE?!
OH, C'MON, GAMORA, BE NICE. I'M ONLY TRYING TO HELP.
WHOMP
I'LL WASTE YOU, YOU SLIMY JERK!
TA-TA! I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO GET WARTS!

OW.
WHY DID GREEN LADY HIT DRAX?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY FRIEND!
DON'T GET ANGRY, DRAX. I'M SORRY--
EVERYONE TELLS DRAX "GO AWAY," "LEAVE ME ALONE."
NOW THEY START BEATING UP ON DRAX!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
EVEN BIG DUMB DRAX CAN TAKE A HINT!

HEY--WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, GAMORA HERE JUST BRUISED DRAX'S TENDER HEART. NICE GOING, TOOTS.
OF COURSE, I HAD HELP, DIDN'T I, PIP?
THAT'S NOT HOW DRAX SEE'S IT. YOU BETTER GO AFTER HIM...
AND HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CATCH UP WITH SOME-ONE WHO CAN FLY?
Uhh, I COULD USE MY JET BOOTS TO GO GET--
SAVE YOUR BREATH, MAXAM--
MOONDRAGON'S AIRCRAFT WILL DO FINE.
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP.
PALLY, LET ME GIVE YOU A WORD OF ADVICE.
DON'T BOTHER.

GREEN LADY SHOULDN'T HIT DRAX LIKE THAT.
DRAX MIGHT HIT BACK.
AND DRAX ISN'T NO WIMP.
WHOOMP!
CRASH
DRAX IS THE DESTROYER!

DOESN'T NEED GAMORA!
DRAX CAN TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF!
DOESN'T NEED MAXAM...
OR MOON-LADY!
DRAX DOESN'T NEED ANY-ONE!
DRAX DOESN'T.
Doesn't...

DRAX DOESN'T WANT TO BE ALONE.
Ahuh... Ahuh...
ahuh... ahuh...

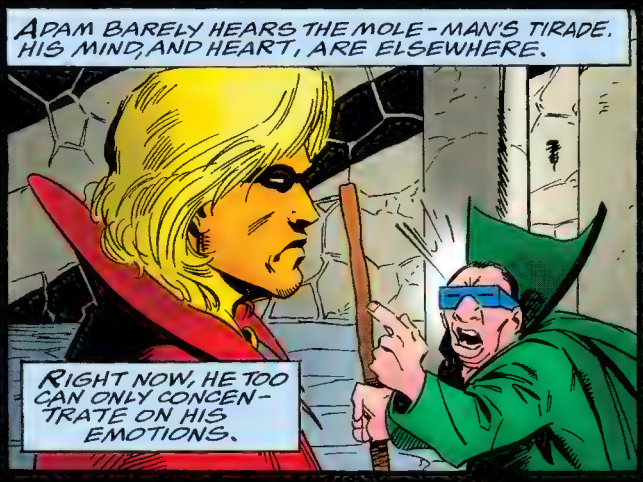
ELSEWHERE...
I'M TELLING YOU, IT WAS ALL AN ACCIDENT.
SO YOU ACCIDENTLY ENRAGED A GIANT DYNAMO.
SOMEHOW THAT MAKES IT OKAY?
GO EASY ON THE LADY...
I SEEM TO RECALL YOU PULLING A SIMILAR STUNT NOT TOO LONG AGO.
WHAT'S THAT?
HAPPENED A FEW MONTHS BACK. BALDY HERE WAS DELVING INTO DRAX'S MIND, SEEING IF HE REMEMBERED ANY OF HIS FIRST LIFE AS A HUMAN.
SENT HIM FLYING OFF TO THE NEVADA DESERT. THAT'S WHERE DRAXY FIRST DIED,* Y'KNOW.
* WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #12-13. --CRAIG
AND YOU THINK I'M CARELESS?
WHAT HAPPENS IF DRAX REMEMBERS THAT YOU'RE HIS DAUGHTER AND THAT YOU KILLED HIM THE SECOND TIME AROUND? HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'LL REACT?
THAT IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY.
I AM OF THE FIRM BELIEF THAT, NO MATTER THE CONSEQUENCES, WE MUST ALL CONFRONT OUR PASTS.

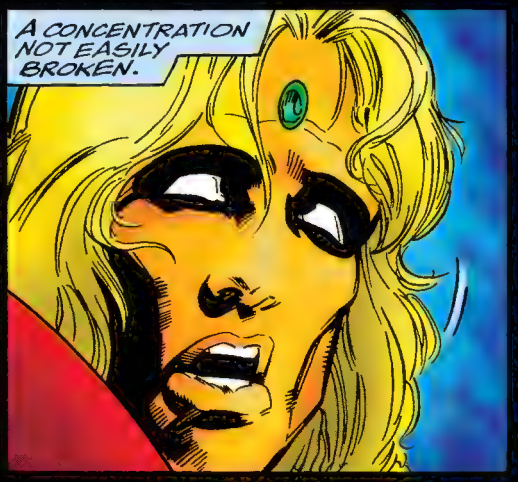
HEY, I'D LIKE TO CONFRONT MY PAST MORE THAN ANYBODY...
IT'S NOT AS IF I ASKED FOR THIS AMNESIA.
EXCUSE ME WHILE I GAG.
THAT ACT OF YOURS IS GETTING OLD AND STALE.
IT'S NO ACT, GAMORA.
WHEN I ATTEMPTED TO PROBE MAXAM'S MIND, ALL THE DEFENSES I ENCOUNTERED WERE GRAFTED ONTO HIS PSYCHE, THERE CLEARLY AGAINST HIS WILL.
ALL THAT PROVES TO ME IS THAT HE HAS SOMETHING TO HIDE.
ALL RIGHT! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS GARBAGE!
YOU'VE BEEN TREATING ME LIKE A VILLAIN FROM THE START, BUT THE FACT IS, I'M AS VALUABLE TO THIS TEAM AS YOU ARE--MAYBE MORE SO.
IS THAT SO??
PUT THAT HOSTILITY ON HOLD, YOU TWO.
I THINK WE FOUND OUR BOY.

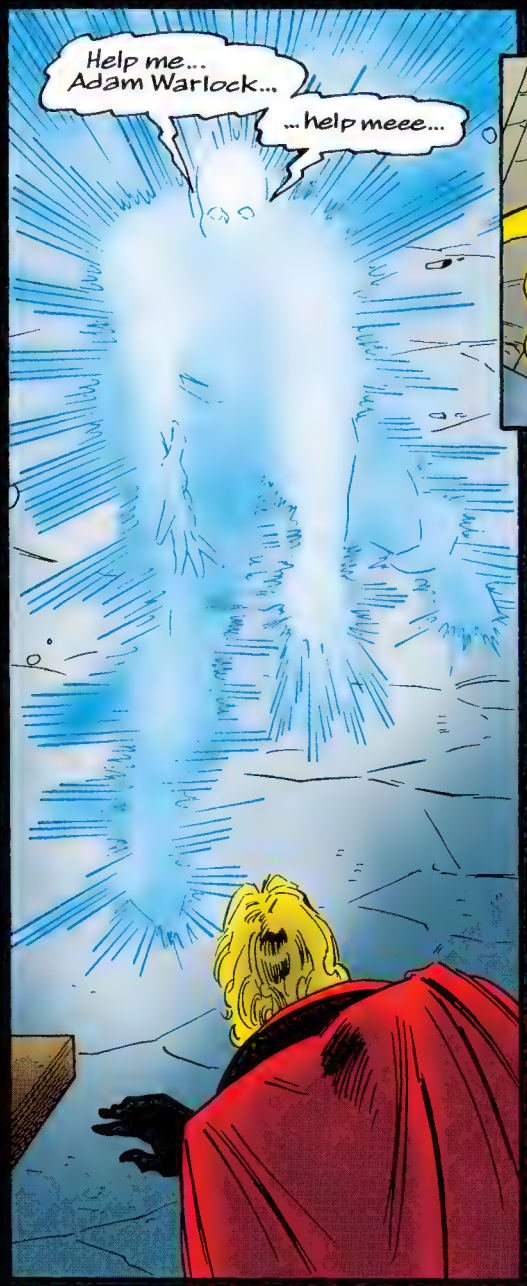
"AND HE AIN'T ALONE!"
FWOOSH
DRAX! WAIT!

NOPE. DRAX DOESN'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO OLD FRIENDS NO MORE.
DRAX HAS NEW FRIENDS, NEW TEAM TO HANG WITH.
NEW TEAM? MOONDRAGON, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO DISCERN.
hmmm, "DRAX AND THE IDIOCY WATCH". I LIKE IT.
SAY GOODBYE TO MR. ADAM FOR ME.
NO, DRAX! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
GREEN LADY IS WRONG. DRAX CAN DO ANYTHING, BECAUSE DRAX IS THE LEADER NOW!

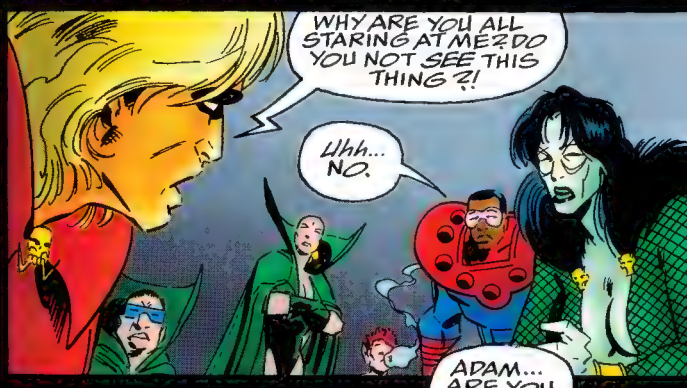
WHAT?!
YOU MEAN TO SAY HE JUST KIDNAPPED MY PETS AND LEFT THE ISLAND WITH THEM ??
WARLOCK, I DEMAND AN EXPLANATION FOR THIS!
I MUST CONFESS THAT I AM IN THE DARK ABOUT THIS MYSELF.
I THINK I MAY HAVE THE ANSWER.
WHILE SCANNING DRAX DOWN AT THE BEACH, I DETECTED AN EMPATHIC LINK BETWEEN DRAX AND THE MOLE MAN'S CREATURES.
NOT MENTAL, BUT EMPATHIC, PERHAPS SET OFF BY DRAX'S INTENSE FEELINGS OF LONELINESS AND REJECTION.
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY WE HAVE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
STILL, IT PUZZLES ME THAT DRAX HAS BEEN ABLE TO SUSTAIN HIS PRESENT COURSE WITHOUT BEING DISTRACTED.
HIS ATTENTION SPAN IS ENHANCED BY EXTREME EMOTION. HIS INTELLECTUAL INTEREST IS HARD TO MAINTAIN, BUT HIS EMOTIONS HE CAN FOCUS QUITE EASILY.
SOMETHING, PERHAPS, TO WORRY ABOUT.
EXCUSE ME -- BUT I'M THE ONE WITH THE PROBLEM.


ADAM BARELY HEARS THE MOLE-MAN'S TIRADE. HIS MIND, AND HEART, ARE ELSEWHERE.
RIGHT NOW, HE TOO CAN ONLY CONCENTRATE ON HIS EMOTIONS.

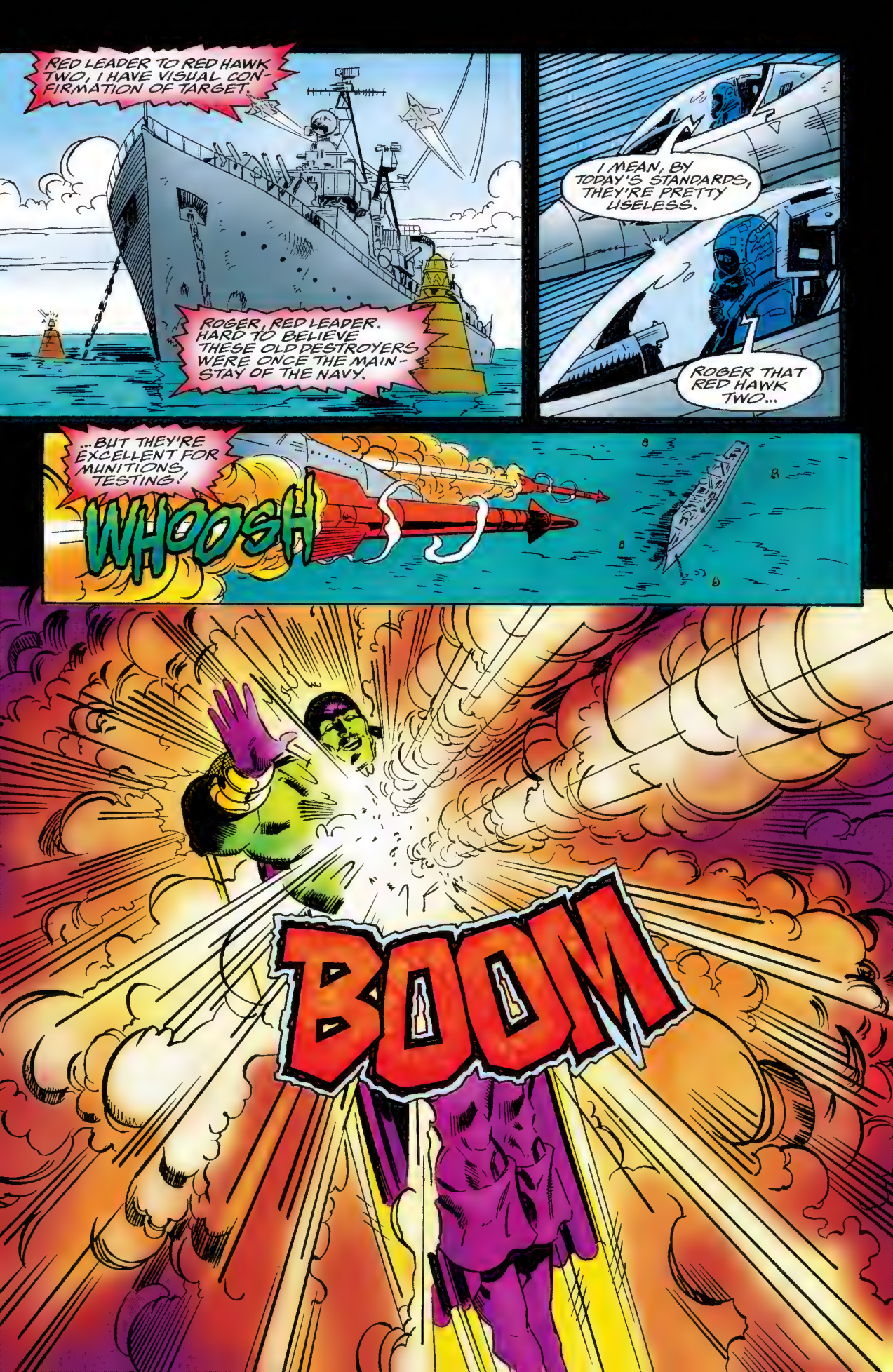

A CONCENTRATION NOT EASILY BROKEN.


Help me... Adam Warlock...
...help meee...

WHO ARE YOU?!
ADAM!


WHY ARE YOU ALL STARING AT ME? DO YOU NOT SEE THIS THING?!
Uhh... NO.

ADAM... ARE YOU OKAY?
BUT IT WAS... WAS...
IT WAS RIGHT HERE.
Whoa! LOOKS LIKE MORE'N JUST ADAM'S HEART CRACKED WHEN HE LOST MAYA!


RED LEADER TO RED HAWK TWO, I HAVE VISUAL CONFIRMATION OF TARGET.
ROGER, RED LEADER. HARD TO BELIEVE THESE OLD DESTROYERS WERE ONCE THE MAINSTAY OF THE NAVY.
I MEAN, BY TODAY'S STANDARDS, THEY'RE PRETTY USELESS.
ROGER THAT RED HAWK TWO...
...BUT THEY'RE EXCELLENT FOR MUNITIONS TESTING!
WHOOSH
BOOM

RED LEADER, IS THIS PART OF THE TEST?
JUST BLAST THOSE THINGS! BLAST 'EM OUT OF THE SKY!!
WELL, IT WAS WORTH A SHOT, RED LEADER...
ROGER. ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO--
454
EJECT!

I JUST DON'T GET IT. THOSE TWO FIGHTERS ARE ALMOST HALF AN HOUR OVERDUE.
I TELL YOU, ENSIGN, THIS BERMUDA TRIANGLE BUSINESS NEVER SAT WELL WITH ME.
SIR, I'VE ALREADY ARRANGED FOR A SEARCH CREW TO GO OUT ON YOUR SAY-SO.
CAPTAIN! THE TOWER'S PICKING UP SOMETHING.
SOMETHING VERY--
--STRANGE.
HI.
DRAX HAS SOME BAD MEN FOR YOU.

YOU GUYS GOT A LOT OF NICE BOATS, BUT YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WITH 'EM.
THOSE TWO FELLAS WERE TRYING TO BLOW ONE OF THEM UP. DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. WE STOPPED 'EM.
SEE?
DRAX DID GOOD, RIGHT?
CAREFUL, SIR...
OUR RECORDS INDICATE DRAX HAS HULK-LEVEL STRENGTH.
Y-YES, VERY NICE, SON...
TH-THANK YOU...
IT WAS NOTHING.
THAT'S WHAT WE HEROES DO, Y'KNOW.

LOOK, THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A BAD TIME TO DISCUSS THIS, BUT I ASSURE YOU I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO RETRIEVE DRAX AND THE OTHERS.
Hmmph!
I SUPPOSE THAT'LL HAVE TO DO -- FOR NOW...
GOOD DAY!
THIS IS ABSURD! THESE 'ALLIES' OF MINE ARE PROVING TO BE MORE OF A HINDRANCE THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
AND JUST AFTER WARLOCK ANNOUNCED OUR ALLEGIANCE AT THE U.N.!
OH, IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT THEY CAN'T CONTROL THAT INVINCIBLE LACKWIT OF THEIRS, THEY CAN'T STOP HIM FROM MAKING OFF WITH MY PETS --
BUT NOW, WARLOCK HIMSELF IS TURNING FROM ODD TO INSANE.
I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW THINGS COULD GET ANY WORSE.
WHAK
OOW!

NO! NOT YOU! NOT NOW!
WHY, OF COURSE IT'S ME, RUPERT.
WHO ELSE WOULD IT BE ?
N·E·X·T
CITIZEN TYRANNUS

MARVEL COMICS
TYRANNUS VS WOLFMAN!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
35 DEC
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
MONSTER ISLAND WILL BE MINE!

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PAT OLLIFFE · PENCILS
BOB ALMOND · INKS
JACK MORELLI · LETTERS
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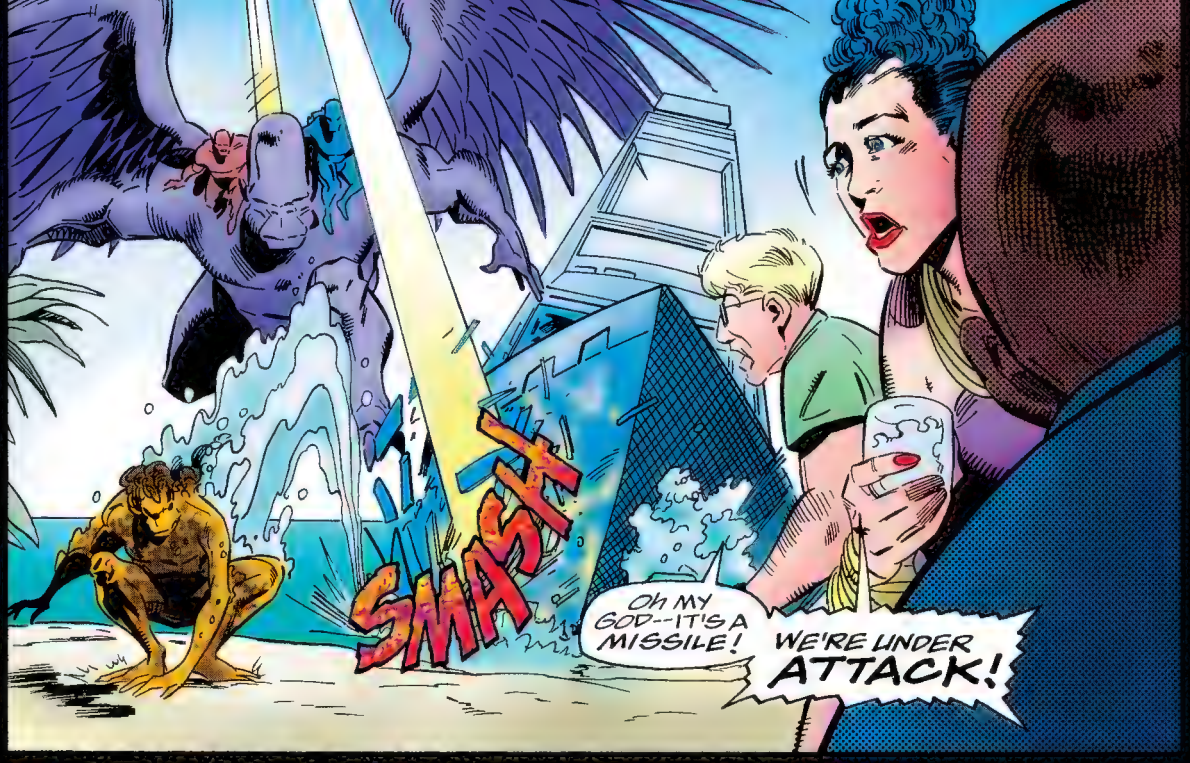
PSHAW. AND JUST WHY SHOULD WARLOCK SWITCH ALLIANCES TO JOIN WITH YOU? WHERE IS THE PERCENTAGE IN THAT?
WELL, I'M A LOT BETTER LOOKING THAN YOU ARE.
THAT SHOULD HELP AT PRESS CONFERENCES.
JUST THE SORT OF INSANE PRATTLE THAT I EXPECT FROM YOU.
TRUE, TYRANNUS IS MAD... BUT IS HE WRONG? HOW SURE AM I OF WARLOCK'S LOYALTY?
PERHAPS ONE SUBTERRANEAN RULER IS AS GOOD AS THE NEXT, AND THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT TYRANNUS IS MUCH MORE PRESENTABLE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAN I.
WHICH IS WHY I SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER MYSELF!
I'M SORRY, TYRANNUS, BUT I'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO TEND TO.
LET ONE OF MY BEHEMOTHS SHOW YOU THE WAY OUT!

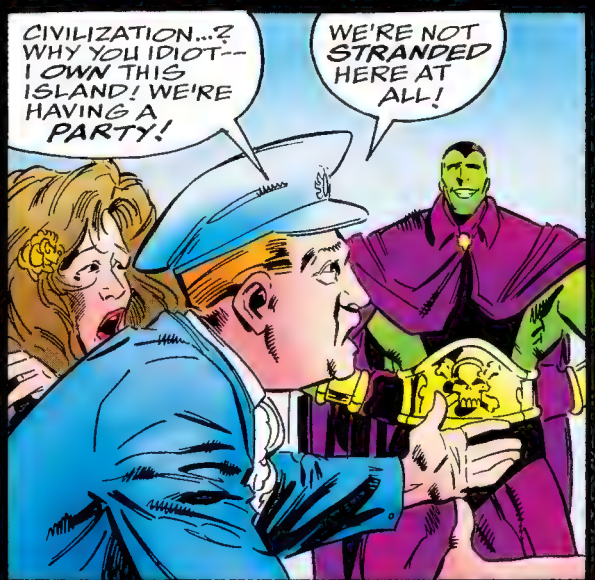
WHAT IS THIS?
WHERE ARE MY PETS??
NOT HERE, THAT MUCH WE KNOW.
WELL, THE TRUTH IS, MY KNOWLEDGE EXTENDS A BIT FURTHER THAN THAT.
YOU'VE NOTICED THIS HEADSET, YES?
RIDICULOUS.
YOUR TECHNOLOGY CAN'T COMPETE WITH THE LOVE OF MY PETS FOR ME, AND I CAN PROVE IT.
WITH THIS.
STYLISH, OF COURSE, BUT IT ALSO SERVES A PURPOSE--TO DISRUPT YOUR ODD RAPPORT WITH THESE DENIZENS OF MONSTER ISLE.
I DESIGNED IT MYSELF. IT HAS TO DO WITH COUNTERING CERTAIN SONIC FREQUENCIES--BUT I DON'T WANT TO BORE YOU WITH THE COMPLEX DETAILS.
THE CALL IS MADE--WITHOUT A SOUND--

CRASH!
--IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE THUNDEROUS RESPONSE.
STILL FEELING CONFIDENT, TYRANNUS?
OH, PLEASE, MR. MALODOROUS MAMMOTH, PLEASE DON'T HURT ME...
...IN FACT--
--HURT HIM!
SAY, DID I NEGLECT TO MENTION THAT THIS DEVICE GIVES ME COMPLETE CONTROL OVER YOUR "PETS"?
YES, I SUPPOSE I DID...

SOMEWHERE, OVER THE CARIBBEAN SEA, DRAX AND HIS NEWFOUND FRIENDS CONTINUE THEIR PATROL...
OH, LOOK!
STRANDED CASTAWAYS! JUST LIKE GILLIGAN'S ISLAND!
SURE DOES FEEL GOOD TO BE HELPING PEOPLE, DOESN'T IT, FELLAS?
I WONDER IF THEY HAVE ANY COCONUT CREAM PIES?


SMASH!
OH MY GOD--IT'S A MISSILE!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

DRAX IS SORRY. HE STILL HAS PROBLEMS WITH LANDINGS.
BUT IT'S OKAY. WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU...TAKE YOU BACK TO CIVILIZATION.
glub glub glub

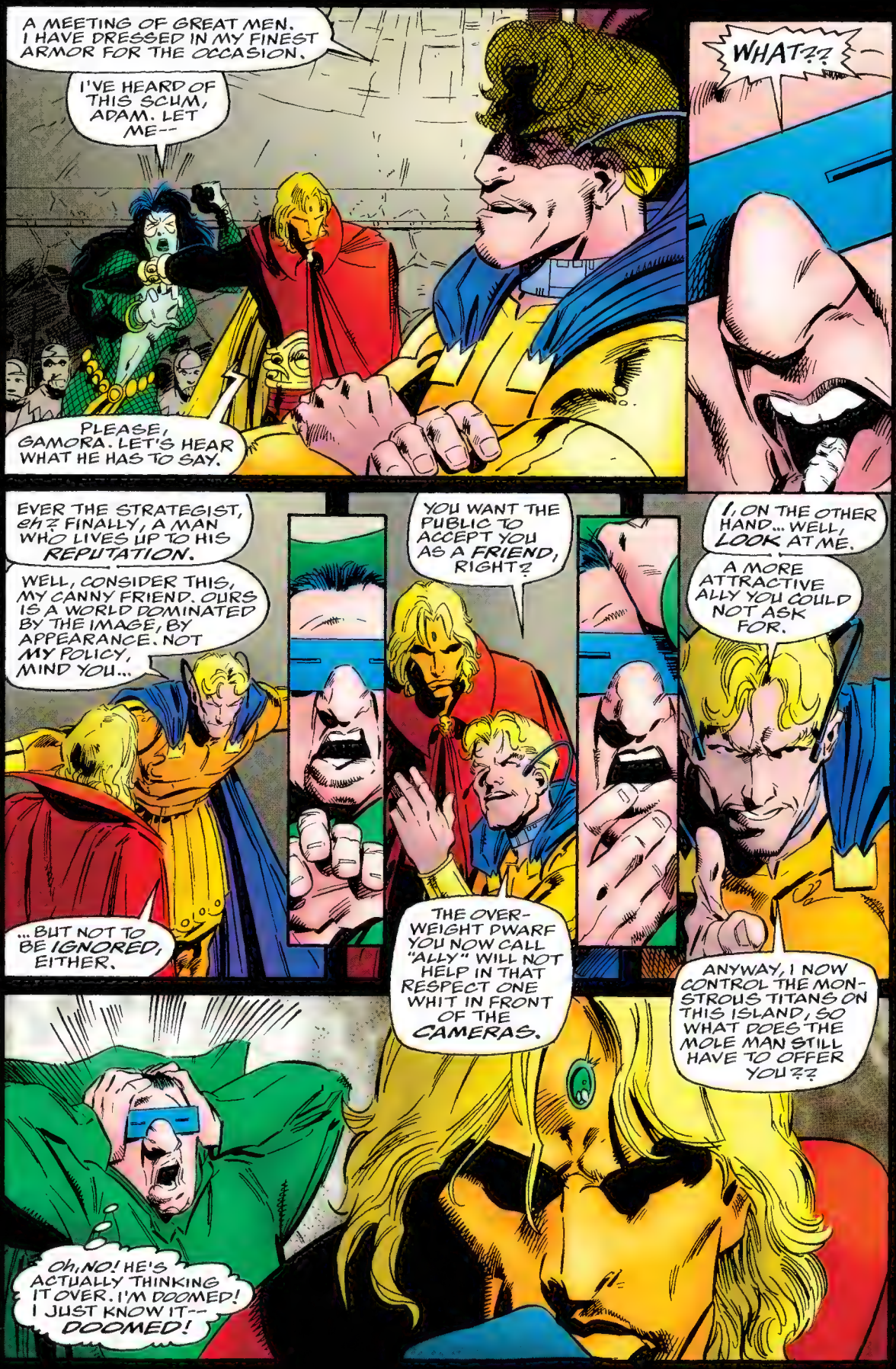

CIVILIZATION...? WHY YOU IDIOT--I OWN THIS ISLAND! WE'RE HAVING A PARTY!
WE'RE NOT STRANDED HERE AT ALL!

NO? BUT YOUR BOAT'S GOT AN AWFULLY BIG HOLE IN IT!
Ohhh...

AND BACK ON MONSTER ISLE, ABOVE GROUND.
ADAM SEEMS SO DISTANT, DISTRACTED. THE EVENTS OF THE LAST WEEK STILL WEIGH HEAVILY ON HIS MIND.
BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THE WATCH CANNOT OPERATE AS A TEAM.
PEOPLE, WE HAVE A PROBLEM. DRAX'S EMPATHIC AFFINITY WITH MOLE MAN'S CREATURES HAS LED HIM AWAY FROM OUR RANKS. WITH DRAX MISSING, SOME COURSE OF ACTION MUST BE TAKEN.
YOU KNOW MY POSITION, BUT I WANT YOUR INPUT. AND TRY TO BE SERIOUS THIS TIME, PIP!
I AM SERIOUS! LEAVE HIM BE. HE'LL WANDER BACK. YOU'LL SEE.
NO! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
THERE ARE FEW AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THESE TWO, YET THEY ARE BOTH ORPHANS OF SORTS--
MAXAM: A MAN WITHOUT A MEMORY, WITHOUT A HISTORY.
GAMORA: THE LAST OF HER RACE.
SO, IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT THEY BOTH SHOULD VALUE THE UNITY OF WHAT FAMILY THEY HAVE.

YES, CLEARLY WE MUST FIND HIM. NOW THE ONLY QUESTION IS HOW?
HELP!
ADAM... MR. WARLOCK, YOU MUST HELP ME!
TROUBLE, MOLE MAN?
TROUBLE DOES NOT COVER IT!
IT IS TYRANNUS! UNPROVOKED, HE ATTACKED ME, TOOK CONTROL OF MY PETS, BEAT ME DOWN WITH THEM, HE DID!
WHY, IF NOT FOR THE INTERCESSION OF MY MOLOIDS...!
WHY, THEY FOUGHT VALIANTLY TO FREE ME, THEY DID, BUT ENOUGH TALK. WE MUST ACT BEFO--
NO! OH, LORD, NO!
RRRMMBLL

IN SECONDS, THE VIOLATED CHAMBER IS FLOODED WITH AN ARMY OF PALLID, SICKLY WARRIORS.
LED BY A RATHER HEALTHY-LOOKING GENERAL.
Ahh... ADAM WARLOCK--JUST THE MAN I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SEE...


A MEETING OF GREAT MEN. I HAVE DRESSED IN MY FINEST ARMOR FOR THE OCCASION.
I'VE HEARD OF THIS SCUM, ADAM. LET ME--
PLEASE, GAMORA. LET'S HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.
WHAT?!?
EVER THE STRATEGIST, eh? FINALLY, A MAN WHO LIVES UP TO HIS REPUTATION.
WELL, CONSIDER THIS, MY CANNY FRIEND. OURS IS A WORLD DOMINATED BY THE IMAGE, BY APPEARANCE. NOT MY POLICY, MIND YOU...
...BUT NOT TO BE IGNORED, EITHER.
YOU WANT THE PUBLIC TO ACCEPT YOU AS A FRIEND, RIGHT?
I, ON THE OTHER HAND... WELL, LOOK AT ME.
A MORE ATTRACTIVE ALLY YOU COULD NOT ASK FOR.
THE OVER-WEIGHT DWARF YOU NOW CALL "ALLY" WILL NOT HELP IN THAT RESPECT ONE WHIT IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS.
ANYWAY, I NOW CONTROL THE MONSTROUS TITANS ON THIS ISLAND, SO WHAT DOES THE MOLE MAN STILL HAVE TO OFFER YOU?!?
Oh, NO! HE'S ACTUALLY THINKING IT OVER. I'M DOOMED! I JUST KNOW IT-- DOOMED!

WHAKK
YOU ALSO LIVE UP TO YOUR REPUTATION -- FOR MADNESS!
EVEN IF I WERE NOT A MAN OF MY WORD, EVEN IF I WERE INCLINED TO BREAK MY ALLIANCE WITH THE MOLE MAN, DO YOU THINK I COULD EVER TRUST A MAN WHO SEIZES POWER SO UNSCRUPULOUSLY AS YOU?
DO YOU TAKE ME FOR A FOOL?
I DO NOW, WARLOCK, FOR YOU HAVE DONE A FOOLISH THING.
VERY FOOLISH, INDEED.
KILL THEM! KILL THEM ALL!

PITTSBURGH, A CITY WITH ONE OF THE LOWEST MURDER RATES IN THE COUNTRY...
...WHICH ISN'T TO SAY IT NEVER HAPPENS.
156...157... MAN, WHAT WAS THIS GUY THINKING OF, OUT CARRYING THIS LOAD ON HIM?
THAT, DEAR MAN, IS NOTHING.
Huh! ALL RIGHT, SQUIRT. I DID ONE GUY TODAY... ANOTHER AIN'T GONNA BOTHER ME.
NO, NO, NO, I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
YOU'LL NEVER GET RICH THAT WAY, ONE MAN AT A TIME.
BUT YOU'VE GOT GREAT POTENTIAL... THE SORT OF MAN I NEED. I'M WORKING ON AN OPERATION THAT COULD PROVE MORE LUCRATIVE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
Hmmmm...
COME COME, BROTHER, I'VE MORE FAITH IN YOU THAN OTHER MEN MIGHT. DOES THAT NOT TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW OF ME...?
CANNOT YOU TOO TAKE ME INTO YOUR CONFIDENCE?
YEH, OKAY... I GUESS I CAN TRUST YOU.

INDEED YOU CAN.
NOT SO BIG AS I'D HOPED.
PITY.
WHUMPP

BACK ON MONSTER ISLE, THE BATTLE HAS OUT-GROWN THE WATCH'S HEADQUARTERS...
SHEESH! HOW MANY OF THESE WORMY GEEKS ARE THERE?
I HAD NOT REALIZED TYRANNUS WAS SO SKILLED AT PSYCHIC MANIPULATION!
AH, BUT THERE IS MUCH A NOVICE SUCH AS YOURSELF DOES NOT KNOW.
MUCH A SIXTEEN-HUNDRED-YEAR VETERAN OF THE ART COULD TEACH YOU.

ZAAK
OUR FIRST LESSON WOULD HAVE BEEN, "NEVER ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE DISTRACTED."
MAN, I HATE WISE GUYS.
I'LL SHOW HIM, TRANSPORT HIM OFF SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY AND DROP HIM OFF. THAT'LL BREAK HIS HOLD OVER MOLEY'S CRITTERS.
JUST GOTTA THINK OF THE RIGHT PLACE TO DUMP HIM.
D'OH!
AND THAT'S WHAT THE TROLL GETS FOR HIS MOMENT OF INDECISION!

DIDN'T THINK GAMORA WOULD EVER EASE UP ON HER SUSPICIONS OF ME--
--BUT HERE SHE IS, COUNTING ON ME TO WATCH HER BACK.
A GUY COULD GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THE WOMAN WAS STARTING TO TRUST ME.
THEN AGAIN...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, WEASEL?
THE BATTLE DOES NOT GO WELL.
FINESSE IS WASTED HERE. CLEARLY BRUTE FORCE HAS ITS APPLICATIONS.

LEGGO ME, YOU BIG GALOOT!
OHHH... SO EASILY DEFEATED, AGAIN.
TIME TO ACCEPT IT, GIRL. YOUR OVERCONFIDENCE IS GETTING THE BETTER OF YOU.
MOONDRAGON, ARE YOU SUFFICIENTLY RECOVERED TO CONTACT DRAX?
YES, BUT HE COULD BE ANYWHERE! HOW CAN I FIND--
LEAVE THAT TO ME--AND PIP.
ME!?!
USING MY SOUL GEM AS A FOCUSING ELEMENT, WE CAN EXPLOIT YOUR SPACE GEM TO GIVE MOON DRAGON AN UNLIMITED SCOPE FOR HER PSYCHIC BEACON.
WELL, WHATEVER.

"THEREFORE, IF DRAX IS ANYWHERE WITHIN HER POWER'S RANGE, HE SHOULD HEAR THE CALL."
SO LONG, SKIPPER. MY FRIENDS IN THE NAVY WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
DRAX--COME HOME! WE NEED YOU!
THEY NEED ME?!
BACK OFF, UGLY!
THE LADY MAY HATE MY GUTS, BUT I'LL BE HANGED IF I'LL LET YOU TOUCH HER!
EXCELLENT.
I REALLY DON'T THINK THIS COULD'VE GONE ANY BETTER.
THEY'RE GOING DOWN SO QUICKLY, I SUPPOSE THEY WOULD'VE MADE TERRIBLE ALLIES AFTER ALL.
GUESS THE ISLAND'S MINE, eh?

I THINK THAT FELLOW JUST MIGHT REFUTE YOUR CLAIM, YOU BLOATED FOOL.
BY CAESAR!
YOU! YOU'RE THE BAD GUY MOONLADY SHOWED TO DRAX!
THE ONE MR. ADAM AND HIS FRIENDS NEED DRAX TO BEAT UP.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, YOU OAFS? CRUSH THAT IDIOT!!

"Ah, Drax'll handle those mugs, right?"
"Of course, Pip, but maybe he won't HAVE to. You see, Drax is EMOTIONALLY involved in this combat... and the creatures AREN'T.
"My guess is that Drax's EMPATHIC LINK with them--
--will turn their PROGRAMMED RAGE--
--into GENUINE RAGE--
--with a whole NEW target."
What are you DOING? Attack that mesomorphic imbecile!
Go on-- SMASH him!
Ohhh... this is why my plans never work.
Nobody ever CO-OPERATES!

WOW! THAT WAS INCREDIBLE!
YEAH! WAY TO GO, BIG GUY!
DRAX SAVES DAY, EH?
I'LL SAY! IN SPADES!
AND THAT LANDING! THOR HISSELF COULDN'TA MADE A PRETTIER ONE!
THAT'S RIGHT. DRAX DIDN'T CRASH. MAYBE HE--
HOLD ON, FELLAS!
GUESS YOU ALL KNOW, HUH? KNOW THAT DRAX IS GOING BACK TO HIS OLD TEAM.
THEY NEED ME... SO I GOTTA. JUST WOULDN'T BE RIGHT IF I DIDN'T.
BUT YOU COME BY THE HOUSE SOME-TIME.
MOONLADY MAKES SOME WICKED BROWNIES!

THE DUST SETTLES. THINGS ARE PEACEFUL.
A CALM, ADAM WARLOCK NOTES, THAT HE HELPED RESTORE. TRUE, HE'S BEEN STRAINED, EVEN DAZED, BY RECENT EVENTS, BUT HE CAN STILL LEAD THIS TEAM.
HE STILL HAS A FIRM GRIP ON REALITY. HE'S JUST PROVED THAT.
Adam Warlock... help me... help me... help meeeee...
NO... NO...
PROVED IT TO EVERYONE--BUT HIMSELF.
NEXT: THE DARK OF TRUTH!

MARVEL COMICS
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36 JAN
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH™
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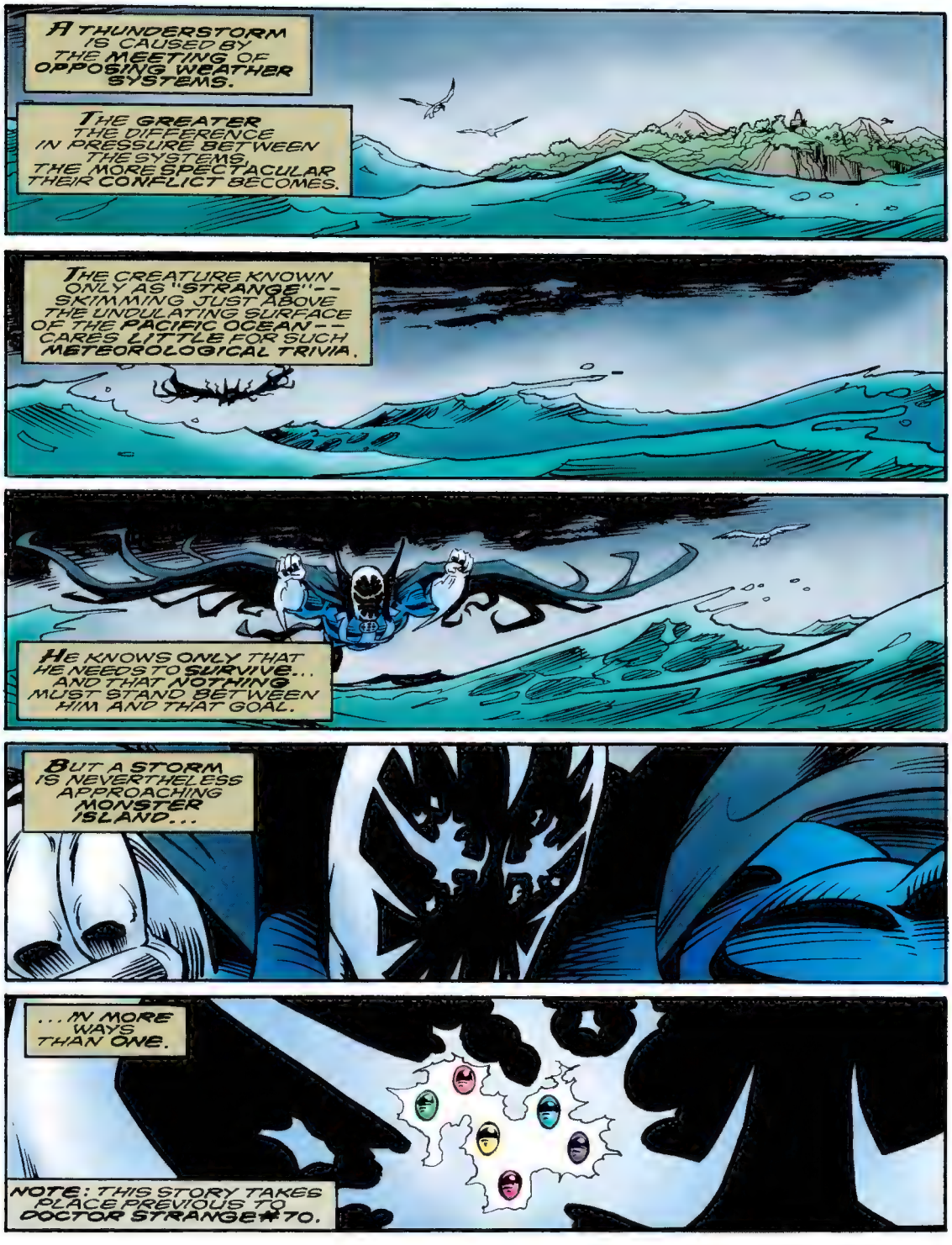
THE INFINITY GEMS BELONG TO STRANGE!
LEE SULLIVAN 94



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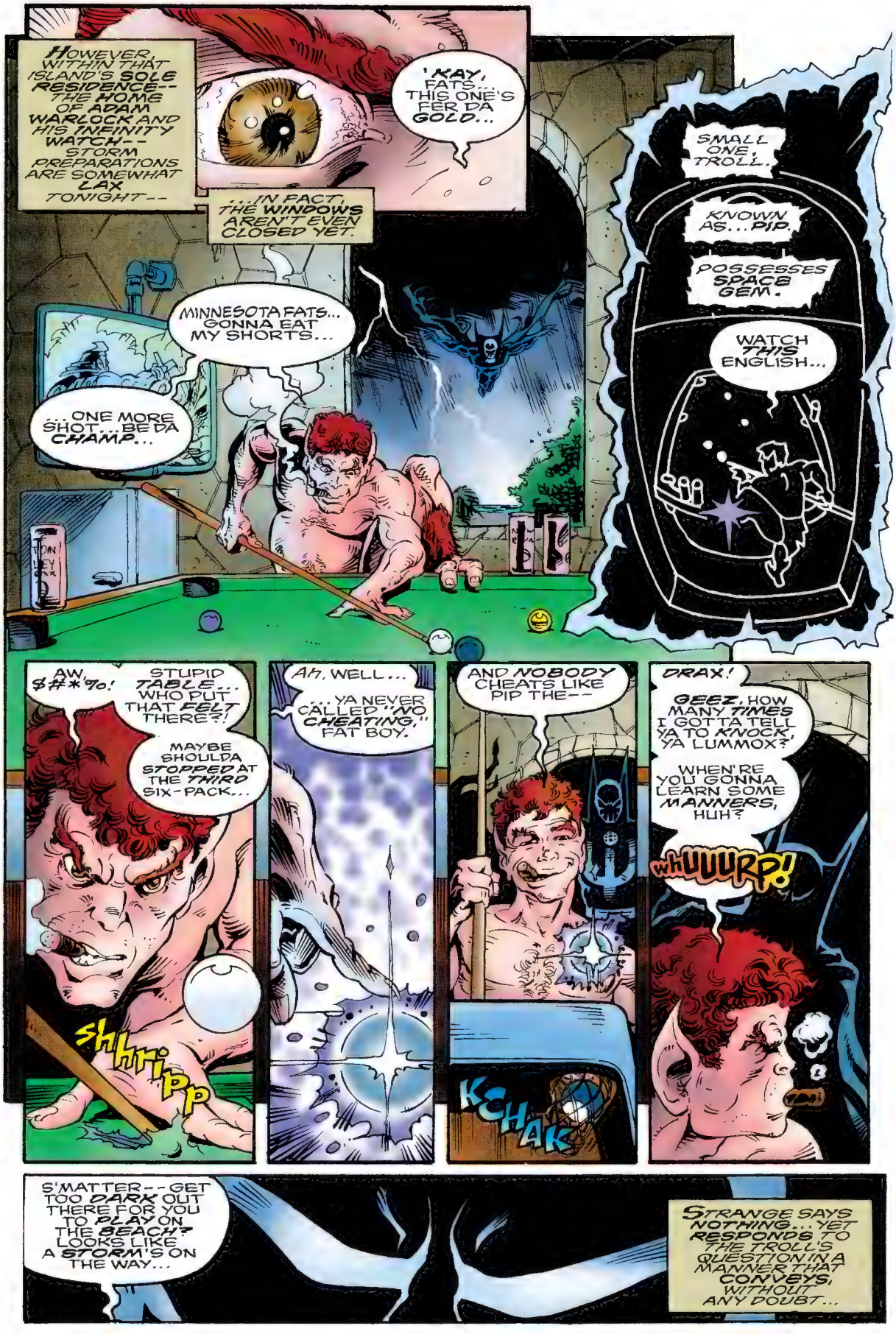
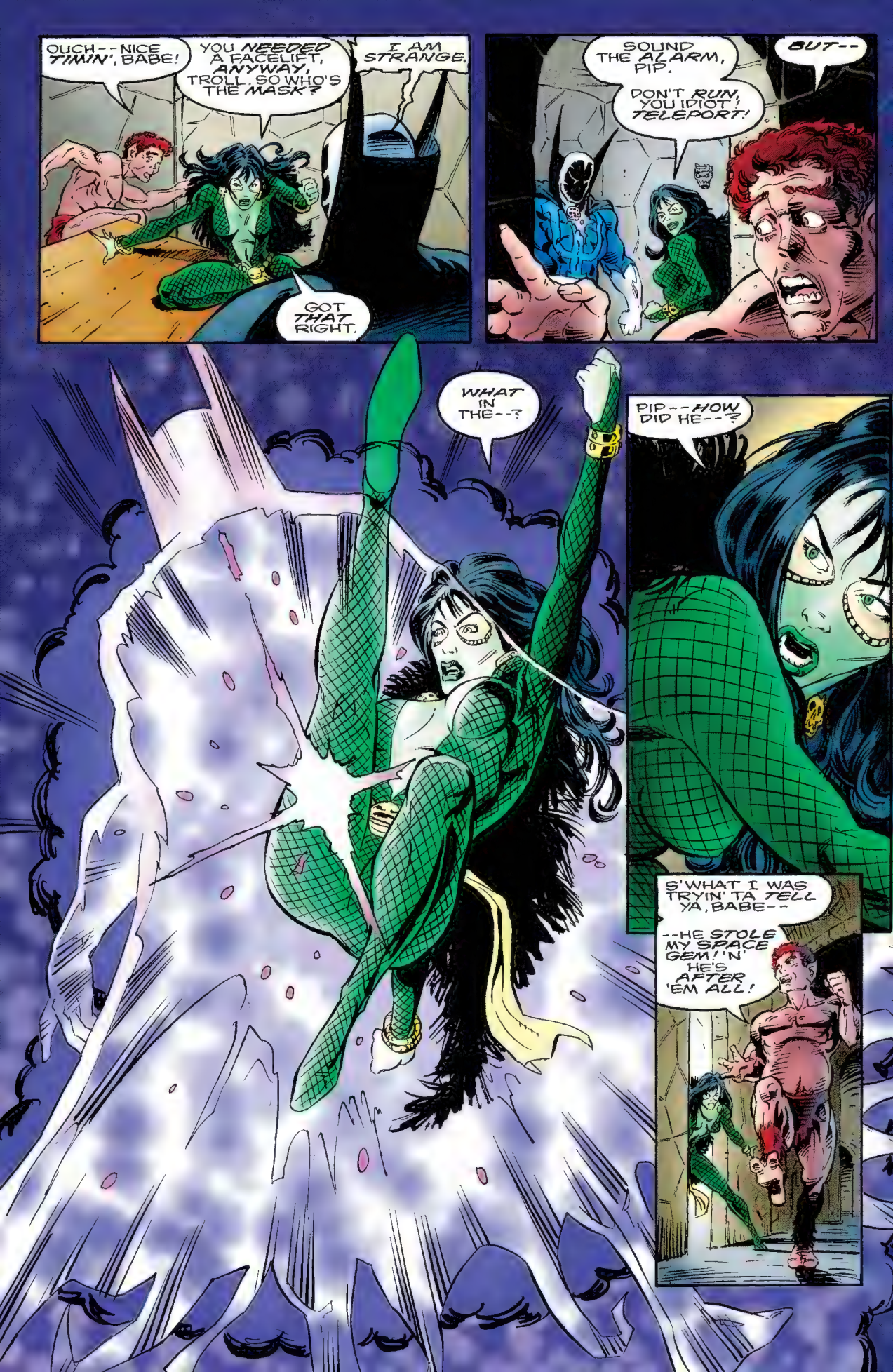

HOWEVER, WITHIN THAT ISLAND'S SOLE RESIDENCE-- THE HOME OF ADAM WARLOCK AND HIS INFINITY WATCH-- STORM PREPARATIONS ARE SOMEWHAT LAX TONIGHT--
'KAY, FATS... THIS ONE'S FER DA GOLD...
...IN FACT, THE WINDOWS AREN'T EVEN CLOSED YET.
MINNESOTA FATS... GONNA EAT MY SHORTS...
...ONE MORE SHOT...BE DA CHAMP...
SMALL ONE, TROLL..
KNOWN AS...PIP.
POSSESSES SPACE GEM.
WATCH THIS ENGLISH...
AW, $#*%! STUPID TABLE... WHO PUT THAT FELT THERE?!
MAYBE SHOULDA STOPPED AT THE THIRD SIX-PACK...
SHHHTIPP
AH, WELL...
...YA NEVER CALLED "NO CHEATING," FAT BOY.
AND NOBODY CHEATS LIKE PIP THE--
KCHAK
DRAX!
GEEZ, HOW MANY TIMES I GOTTA TELL YA TO KNOCK, YA LUMMOX?
WHEN'RE YOU GONNA LEARN SOME MANNERS, HUH?
whUUURP!
S'MATTER--GET TOO DARK OUT THERE FOR YOU TO PLAY ON THE BEACH? LOOKS LIKE A STORM'S ON THE WAY...
STRANGE SAYS NOTHING...YET RESPONDS TO THE TROLL'S QUESTION IN A MANNER THAT CONVEYS, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT...

--THE STORM HAS ALREADY ARRIVED!
--YYAAAARGH!
Stan Lee presents
THE DARK OF TRUTH
EVAN SKOLNICK
GUEST WRITER
LEE SULLIVAN
GUEST ARTIST
JANICE CHIANG
LETTERER
IAN LAUGHLIN/
ELECTRIC PRISM
COLORISTS
CRAIG ANDERSON
EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

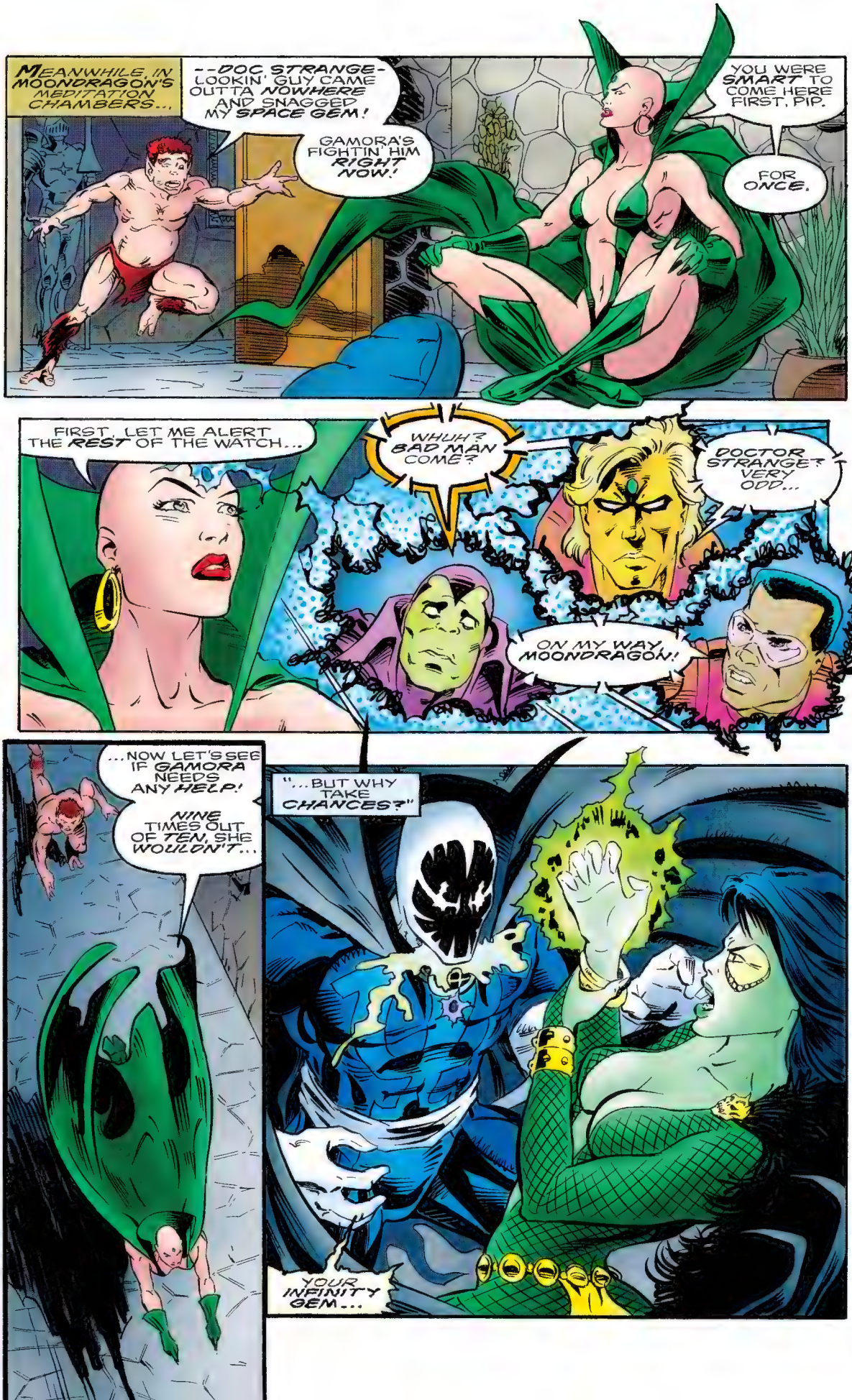
Whunnh
what... what the--
HEY-- MY GEM!
THAM
GIVE IT BACK!
WHERE... ARE YOUR COMPANIONS?
YEAH, RIGHT... LIKE I'D TELL YOU...
YOU... ALREADY HAVE...

THE SPACE GEM ITSELF... WILL REVEAL THE LOCATION... OF THE OTHERS STRANGE SEEKS...
SPLOOD
SINKING INTO THE STRANGER'S MALLEABLE CHEST, THE SPACE GEM REVEALS...
...DRAX THE DESTROYER...
...MOONDRAGON...
...THIS ONE STRANGE DOES NOT KNOW...
...ADAM WARLOCK...
...AND GAMORA...
EXCELLENT... SHE APPROACHES... EVEN NOW...
HOLY--
THAT SYMBOL--ARE YOU--WERE YOU--DOCTOR STRANGE?
NO!
I AM... STRANGE!
S'WHAT I SAID, RIGHT?

WE HEARD YA DISAPPEARED-- BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YA, MAN?
WHAT ARE YA TRYIN' TO DO TO US?
I REQUIRE... THE GEMS... YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS... SAFEGUARD.
WHY?
I REQUIRE THEM.
OH, WELL, LEMME JUST GO ASK THE GUYS, THEN--
--BE RIGHT BACK--
WHAT'S ALL THIS COMMOTION?
AGGK!
KRAKK!

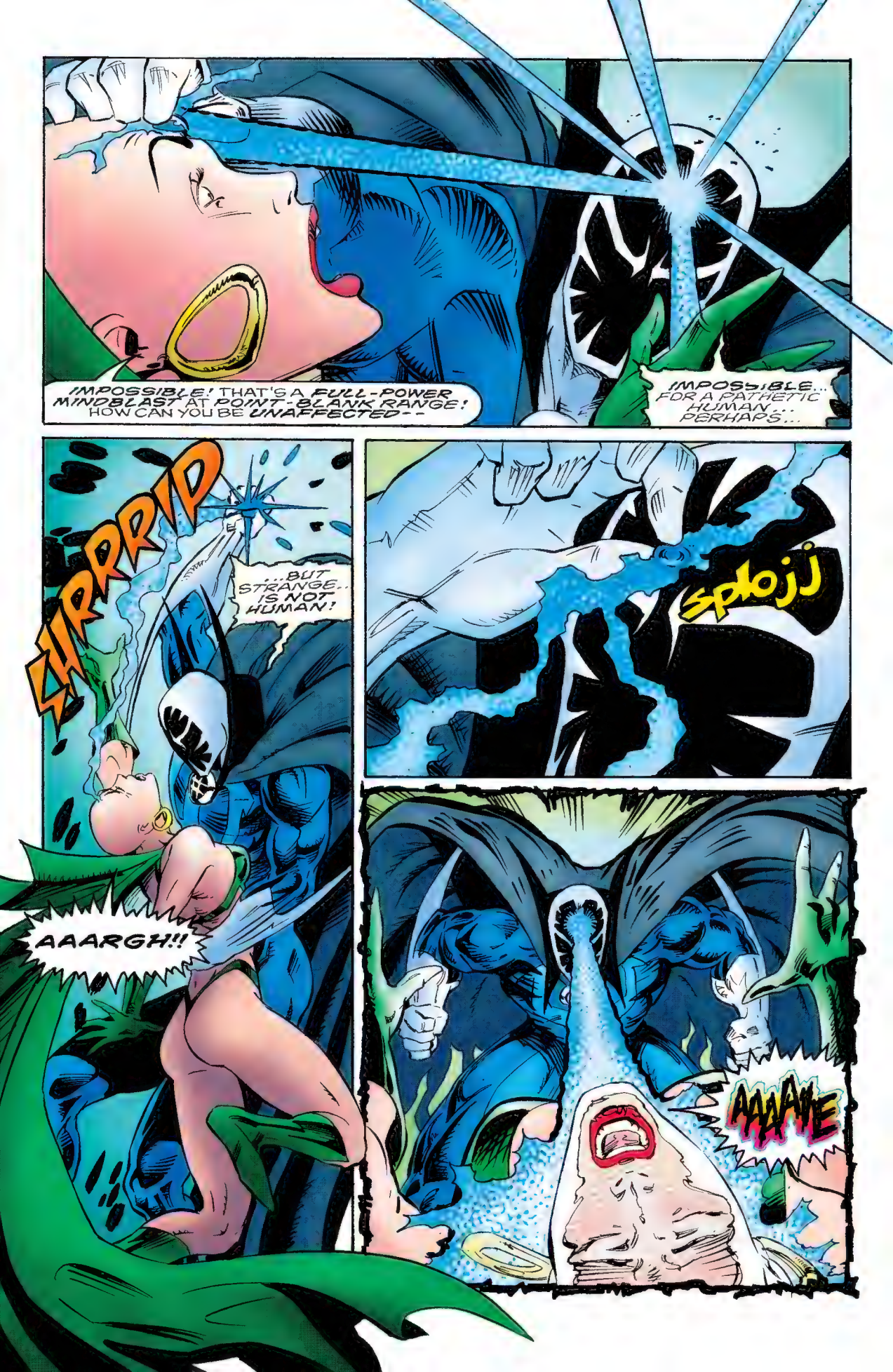

OUCH--NICE TIMIN', BABE!
YOU NEEDED A FACELIFT, ANYWAY, TROLL. SO WHO'S THE MASK?
I AM STRANGE.
GOT THAT RIGHT.
SOUND THE ALARM, PIP.
DON'T RUN, YOU IDIOT! TELEPORT!
OUT--
WHAT IN THE--?
PIP--HOW DID HE--?
S'WHAT I WAS TRYIN' TA TELL YA, BABE--
--HE STOLE MY SPACE GEM! 'N' HE'S AFTER 'EM ALL!

I REQUIRE-- YOUR TIME GEM.
YEAH-- I'M SURE YOU DO--
--BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR THIS--
SKLITCH
AAAAA


MEANWHILE, IN MOONDRAGON'S MEDITATION CHAMBERS...
--DOC STRANGE- LOOKIN' GUY CAME OUTTA NOWHERE AND SNAGGED MY SPACE GEM!
GAMORA'S FIGHTIN' HIM RIGHT NOW!
YOU WERE SMART TO COME HERE FIRST, PIP.
FOR ONCE.
FIRST, LET ME ALERT THE REST OF THE WATCH...
WHUH? BAD MAN COME?
DOCTOR STRANGE? VERY ODD...
ON MY WAY, MOONDRAGON!
...NOW LET'S SEE IF GAMORA NEEDS ANY HELP!
NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN, SHE WOULDN'T...
"...BUT WHY TAKE CHANCES?"
YOUR INFINITY GEM...

NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, UGLY!
$#*%!
WHAT--?
NO!
STAY BACK, GAMORA--I'LL STOP HIM WITH MY TELE-KINETIC BLAST!
NOOOARRGH!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU, DOCTOR STRANGE...
...BUT EVEN THE SORCERER SUPREME CAN'T JUST WALTZ IN HERE AND CLAIM THE INFINITY GEMS!
FOOLISH HUMAN... YOUR FACTS ARE AS OBSOLETE... AS STEPHEN STRANGE... HIMSELF
AAAHH! MY HAND!
SPLOODGE
NOW WHERE--?
NO!!


IMPOSSIBLE! THAT'S A FULL-POWER MINDBLAST AT POINT-BLANK RANGE! HOW CAN YOU BE UNAFFECTED--
IMPOSSIBLE... FOR A PATHETIC HUMAN... PERHAPS...
SHRRRIP
...BUT STRANGE... IS NOT HUMAN!
splojj
AAARGH!!
AAAAIE

KLUDD
WHAKT
STRANGE... GROWS WEARY...
GOOD--HE HASN'T SEEN ME--
...OF YOUR... USELESS ATTACKS!
OHH!
÷UNHH÷
--YEEEEET.
whummp

THERE IS NO MEMORY... OF THIS ONE...
...IN MY... PROGRAMMING...
...AND HE BEARS... NO GEM...
...PERHAPS HE SHOULD BE... ELIMINATED...
OOOH--PRETTY COSTUME!
HEEEY-- WHY'S EVERYONE SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR?
YOU--YOU'RE THE BAD MAN!!

YOU EVEN HURT L'IL PIP!
DRAX THE DESTROYER.
POSSESSES POWER GEM...
...BUT NOT ANYMORE...
WHUH?
KRUNCH
WHAM
KRUNCH
KROOM
WHOOoooOAAAH!
SPOKT
WHERE'D HE GO?
SPWOOD

MY GOD--HE'S GOT THE POWER GEM--HAVE TO STOP HIM--SOMEHOW--
NO!! I ONLY GOT HIS ATTENTION! THIS COULD BE IT--
BZZZ
I BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND A MORE INTERESTING TARGET...
...OVER HERE.

ADAM...WARLOCK...STRANGE REQUIRES...YOUR AID...
I AM... STRANGE.
I REQUIRE... THE INFINITY GEMS...TO SURVIVE...
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS?
I HAVE HEARD OF YOU, "STRANGE"... AND OF THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE.
SOME SAY YOU ARE DOCTOR STRANGE HIMSELF, SOMEHOW TERRIBLY ALTERED--
NO!
I AM...NOT... DOCTOR STRANGE!
I SUSPECT, TO SOME DEGREE, THAT IS A LIE...
...BUT LET'S TEST MY THEORY-- WITH A KARMIC BLAST!
THAT... FEELS ODD...
...DO NOT TOUCH... THAT PART... OF ME!

HOW DID YOU RESIST MY SOUL GEM'S KARMIC BLAST? UNLESS--
FAPP
ALL RIGHT, MAXAM--LET'S MOVE IN CLOSE BEFORE HE CAN HURT--
WARLOCK!
KRAKK
:HAGGK:
NOOOOOO
unff!
YOU...THINK YOU...KNOW STRANGE...
YOU...THINK I AM...LIKE YOU...
...AND YOU ARE...IN ERROR!

POINT TAKEN, STRANGE--WE CAN'T STOP YOU IF WE DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE!
AND SO BEHOLD--
--THE LIGHT OF TRUTH WILL REVEAL ALL!
YOUR TRICKS... WILL NOT HELP YOU!
NO, STRANGE, YOU'RE WRONG... THEY ALREADY HAVE!
I KNOW NOW-- YOU'RE NOT ALIVE AT ALL--
--YOU'RE A MAGICKAL CONSTRUCT--A ROBOT OF SORTS--
--CREATED BY DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE HIMSELF--
DO NOT...SAY THAT NAME!!
BRAKK
AACH
NO...YOU CANNOT... YOU WILL NOT...

...NOT IF I SHOW YOU WHAT YOUR SOUL SAYS!
YES, STRANGE, YOUR SOUL!
NO MATTER HOW LITTLE OF STEPHEN STRANGE YOU MAY WISH TO BELIEVE YOU POSSESS WITHIN YOURSELF...
...THE FACT REMAINS, HE WAS THE TEMPLATE BY WHICH YOU WERE CREATED!*
NO...
AND THE MEMORIES YOU INHERITED FROM DOCTOR STRANGE SHOULD HAVE SHOWN YOU...
...WHAT A FOOL'S ERRAND YOU'VE CHOSEN FOR YOURSELF!
THE LIVING TRIBUNAL DECREED THAT THE GEMS WILL NEVER AGAIN BE USED IN UNISON.
HE WILL NOT ALLOW THE UNIVERSE TO AGAIN MASS THOSE MYSTICAL FORCES.**
DOCTOR STRANGE KNOWS THIS--AND THUS, SO MUST YOU!
*FOR THE WHOLE STORY, CHECK OUT CURRENT ISSUES OF DOCTOR STRANGE! --CRAFTY CRAIG
** INFINITY WAR #6.--CRAFTIER CRAIG

NOT... POSSIBLE... STRANGE MUST GATHER... MUST SURVIVE...
PERHAPS, BUT NOT THIS WAY, STRANGE!
NO MATTER WHAT ELSE GOT MIXED IN WHEN YOU WERE CREATED, STEPHEN STRANGE IS STILL THE DRIVING FORCE WITHIN YOU!
AND THAT DRIVING FORCE KNOWS WHAT FOLLY IT WOULD BE TO STEAL THE INFINITY GEMS--TO TRY AND USE THEM FOR PERSONAL GAIN!
STRANGE... SEES THE TRUTH OF IT...
SPWORRK
ting
THE GEMS... WOULD ONLY CAUSE STRANGE... MORE AGONY...

WHERE... CAN THE AGONY... END?
WHY... MUST IT... BE THIS WAY?
I DO NOT KNOW, STRANGE.
BUT I PROMISE YOU... THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN I WILL ASK YOUR CREATOR THAT VERY QUESTION.
END

MARVEL
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WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
37
FEB
FOR THE LIFE OF
FIRELORD

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BIG GUY
<WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BOY!>
<ALMOST THERE!>
<SEE? I TRIED TO WAKE HIM UP, BUT COULDN'T!>
<HE MUST BE AWFULLY TIRED!>
<WE'VE COME A LONG WAY, BOY!>
<ALMOST THERE!>
<SEE? I TRIED TO WAKE HIM UP, BUT COULDN'T!>
<HE MUST BE AWFULLY TIRED!>

OH, MAYA. LIFE IS SO EMPTY WITHOUT YOU.
PERHAPS THE ORB OF ETERNITY CAN GIVE ME A GLIMPSE OF YOUR NEW LIFE...
NO!!
I MUST STOP TORTURING MYSELF WITH WHAT CANNOT BE. I MUST FOCUS ON WHAT IS BEFORE I LOSE MY GRIP ON REALITY ITSELF!
SUDDENLY...
AGAIN, THIS WAKING NIGHTMARE HAUNTS ME.
warlock warlock, do not deny me.
NO ONE ELSE SEES YOU. NO ONE ELSE HEARS YOU. ONLY I.
THE STRAIN OF MY LOST LOVE HAS LEFT MY MIND ADDLED.
WHAT HALLUCINATIONS MAY COME FROM THAT I CANNOT TELL, BUT YOU ARE CLEARLY ONE OF THEM.

...and SOUL!
YES! I DO DENY YOU! I DO!
Then you deny your past alliance with he who was once called FIRELORD!

IS THIS WHAT MADNESS IS?
you have been affected, but not in the manner you believe.
your spiritual perceptions are muddled by confusion in love--
--clouding your ability to see the spectre before you for what it is.
HOW--HOW AM I TO BE SURE?
If you will not believe your eyes, and cannot trust your mind, then hear me with your SOUL.
YES, OF COURSE. IT IS THE ONLY WAY.
THE GEM SHALL SHOW ME THE TRUTH.

Two months ago, I again lost my lifetime friend, GABRIEL LAN.*
SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #7. --CRAIG
I was left to wander the cosmos without direction or purpose. Without companionship.
I tried to seek out inhabited worlds to assuage my isolation, but found myself unable to take comfort in the community of others.
And then I met...
...A STRANGER.

When he took my hand... tranquility washed over me.
He seemed to understand my pain so well.
I TRUSTED him.
And so was duly repaid for my confidence--with MURDER.
But the soul of a man is not so easily destroyed.
I have followed this stealer of life here, to your planet.
You--who have been so distracted, so hard to contact--you must help me NOW--or I am truly LOST.

MEANWHILE...
I'M TELLING YOU, ADAM JUST DOESN'T SEEM UP TO THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP RIGHT NOW.
IF YOU WEREN'T SO GAGA OVER THE MAN, YOU'D SEE THAT.
THAT'S IT.!!
YOU'VE FINALLY GIVEN ME THE OPENING TO WHIP YOUR BUTT AND I'M GOING TO TAKE IT!
GAMORA, MAXAM, PLEASE. NO IN-FIGHTING. IT'S VERY BAD FOR TEAM MORALE.
EVEN DRAX KNOWS THAT.
Hmm... I WONDER. IS DRAX SIMPLY SHOWING CHILDLIKE INNOCENCE, OR IS THIS ANOTHER SIGN OF HIS MENTAL EVOLUTION...?
EITHER WAY, HE'D MAKE A BETTER LEADER FOR THIS BUNCH THAN EITHER OF THOSE TWO HOTHEADS.

ENOUGH OF YOUR JOKES, PIP.
ADAM HAS SHOWN NO STABILITY OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, HIDING IN HIS ROOM LIKE A LOVESICK TEENAGER.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO IF ANOTHER CRISIS ARISES?
YOU WILL DEPEND ON ME, MOONDRAGON.
Oh, ADAM. I KNEW YOU WERE ALL RIGHT.
YOU ARE ALL RIGHT, AREN'T YOU?
I HAVE NOT BEEN MYSELF OF LATE, BUT TRUST ME, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE MUST DO.
NOW, ALL OF YOU. WE MUST PREPARE TO LEAVE AT ONCE.
A TRIP? GREAT. WHERE TO, BIG GUY?
I... I'M NOT QUITE SURE.

PITTSBURGH...
BUSCH ON TAP
GATO'S TAVERN
AND I QUITE PLAINLY EXPLAINED TO THE QUARRELSOME FELLOW THAT IF IT WAS ADVERSITY HE SOUGHT, HE HAD TRULY ARRIVED AT HIS DESTINATION IN MEETING ME.
GENTILITY PROHIBITS ME FROM RELATING THE DETAILS, BUT I'VE NO DOUBT YOUR IMAGINATIONS ARE UP TO THE TASK OF COMPLETING THAT SCENARIO YOURSELVES.
IF YOU ASK ME, THAT LITTLE SHRIMP IS FULL OF IT.
AS LONG AS HE'S BUYING THE BEER, I'LL BELIEVE ANY-THING HE SAYS.
OH MY! WHATEVER CAN ALL THIS BE ABOUT ?!

HEY!
WHATTA YOU FREAKS WANT IN HERE?
Y'KNOW ADAM, I BROUGHT US HERE BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT YOUR SOUL GEM SHOWED ME...
...BUT WHAT DO WE WANT HERE?
WE WANT THAT MAN--THAT MURDERER!
YOU CAN'T MEAN ME.
HOLD ON, GOLDIE. WHEN YOU SAY MURDERER...D'YOU MEAN A LADY OR A KID... OR SOMETHING?
NO. HE SLEW A BRAVE AND MIGHTY WARRIOR.
BRAVE AND MIGHTY WARRIOR, HUH?
IN THAT CASE...

ALL RIGHT! I'VE BEEN ACHIN' FOR THIS SORT OF ACTION ALL DAY!!
RESTRAIN YOURSELF, GAMORA. THESE ARE NOT MONSTERS YOU BATTLE--
--MERELY NORMAL, IF MISGUIDED, HUMANS.
"I WANT NO LIVES LOST HERE."
"TOO MANY SPIRITS ALREADY WANDER THE UNIVERSE NEEDLESSLY.

SOUL WORLD.
LOOK AT THE DELUDED FOOLS! BASKING IN THE TEPID ATMOSPHERE OF BUCOLIC PURGATORY.
THEY HAVE ALL FORGOTTEN THE JOYS OF TRUE VIRTUE, THE PAIN OF SIN.
WHILE I HAVE BEEN REMINDED, OF THE PAIN AT LEAST, BY ADAM WARLOCK!*
NO, THIS WORLD IS NOT FOR KRAY-TOR. NOT FOR MUCH LONGER.
*SEE WATiW#33.
SOMETHING IS AMISS.
I HAVE BEEN TOLD OF THE PEACEFUL UNITY OF SOUL WORLD... BUT I FEEL IT NOT.
HAS SOMETHING DISRUPTED THE BALANCE--OR IS THIS TUMULT IN ME ALONE?
INDEED, THIS TRANQUIL VALLEY REMINDS ME OF ANOTHER PLACE ON ANOTHER DISTANT WORLD--

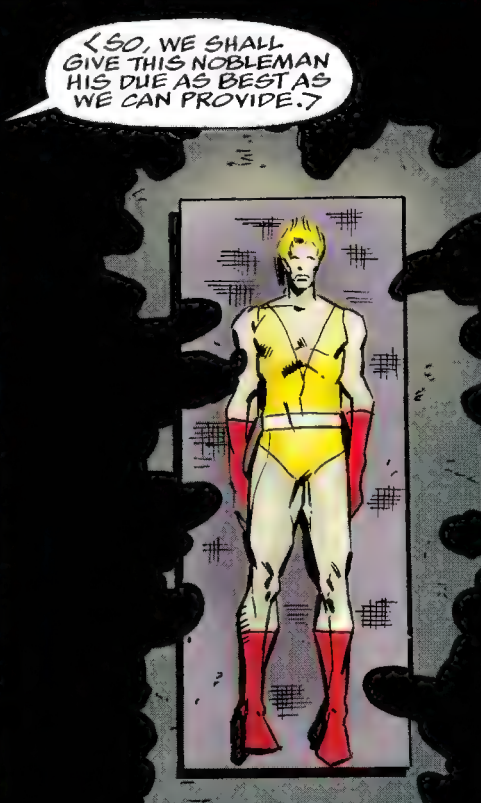
--THE QUIET PLANET WHERE I WAS KILLED."
<THIS MAN IS DEAD.>
<I WILL NOT DISPUTE HIS DEATH, BUT HOW CAN YOU CALL THIS AN ORDINARY MAN?>
<LOOK AT HIS FEATURES, HIS SMOOTH SKIN. HE MATCHES MY GRANDFATHER'S DESCRIPTION OF A KING.>
<KING? THERE HAVE BEEN NO KINGS HERE SINCE THE GREAT PLAGUE.>
<THEN THE KING OF ANOTHER LAND, PERHAPS.>
<HOW DID HE GET HERE FROM THIS OTHER LAND?>
<YOU MIGHT AS WELL SAY HE FELL FROM THE STARS.>
<BUT I SAY THIS IS NOT A MAN AS YOU AND I.>

⟨HE IS A STARGOD! A DESCENDANT OF MANASSAS! PERHAPS MANASSAS HIMSELF!⟩

⟨A TEST OF OUR FAITH, IT IS.⟩
⟨WE SHOULD LEAVE THE BODY ALONE!⟩

⟨I TELL YOU, THIS IS JUST A MAN!⟩

⟨ENOUGH!⟩
I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT BURYING GODS, BUT I HAVE READ MUCH OF THE FUNERAL OF KING TRISSAO.⟩


⟨SO, WE SHALL GIVE THIS NOBLEMAN HIS DUE AS BEST AS WE CAN PROVIDE.⟩

YOU WERE SOMEWHAT ROUGHER THAN WAS NEEDED, GAMORA.
WELL, I GOT THE JOB DONE, DIDN'T I? AND THEY'RE ALL ALIVE, TOO.
WAIT! I DON'T SEE DRAX.
A POX UPON ADAM WARLOCK AND HIS PACK OF FIENDS!!
I AM NOT YET PREPARED TO DEAL WITH HIS ODD BRAND OF HEATHEN BLASPHEMY.
Uhh... THINK THIS HOLE IN THE WALL MIGHT BE A CLUE?
I HAD BEEN AFFORDED A FEW MORE DAYS--
Eh?!

BAD MAN THINKS HE'S GOING SOMEWHERE, BUT HE'S WRONG.
MR. ADAM SAYS YOU KILL PEOPLE.
DRAX DOESN'T LIKE FELLAS WHO DO THAT.
Ah, YES. DRAX. I KNOW SOMETHING OF THIS ONE.
Oh, SO YOU'RE POOR DRAX.
PITIABLE FELLOW. I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOUR PROBLEM.
PROBLEM?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, BROTHER. I AM AWARE OF YOUR BRAIN-DAMAGED STATE, AND HOW YOU FORGET THINGS.
WELL, YEAH...
BUT I'M GETTING BETTER!

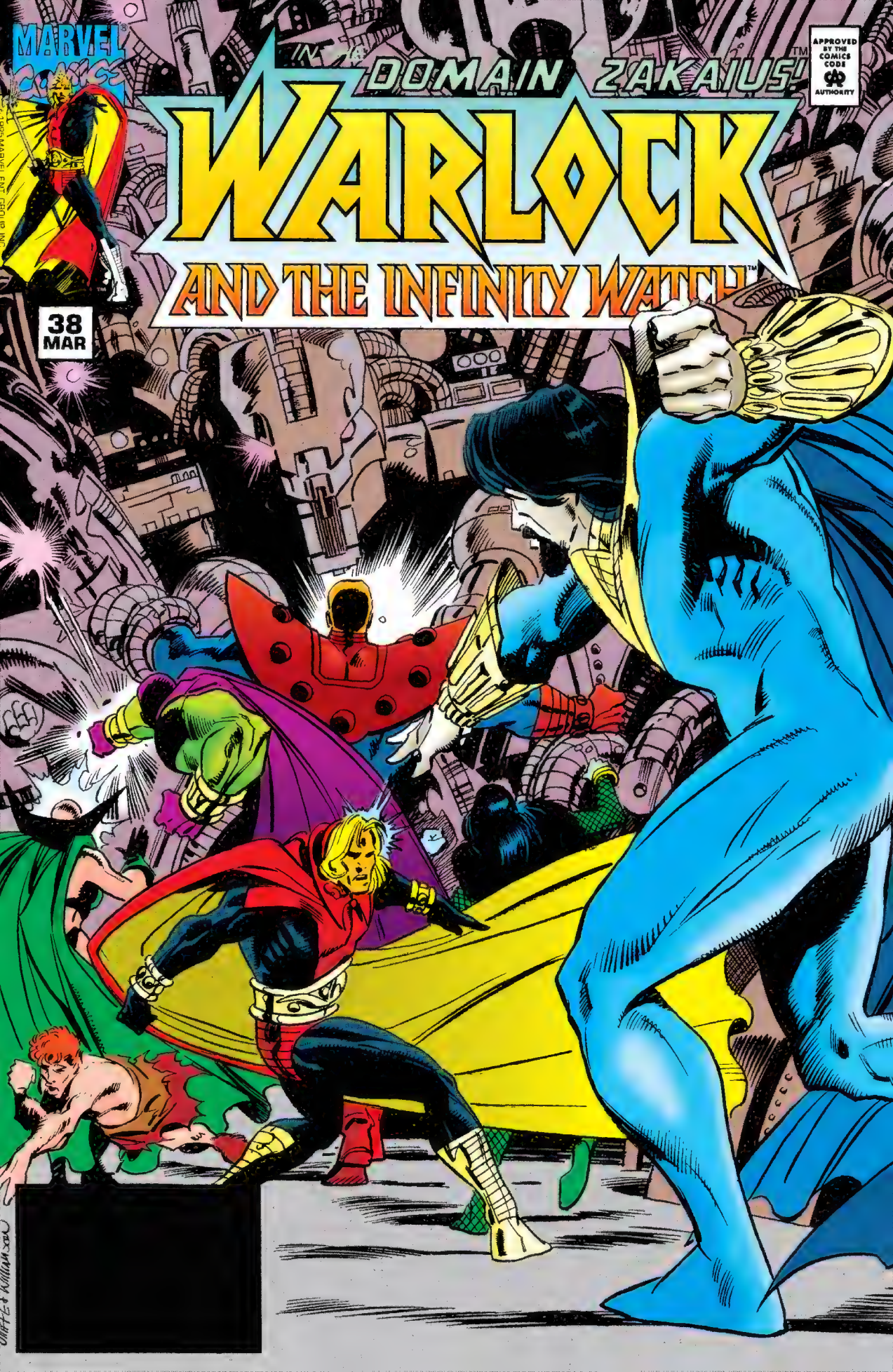
YES, OF COURSE. BUT I CAN HELP YOU GET ALL BETTER RIGHT NOW. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT, BROTHER?
Yes...
THEN IT'S ALL SETTLED.
SHAKING HANDS MEANS WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
Oh MORE THAN FRIENDS, DEAR DRAX. MUCH MORE.
REMOVE YOUR MALIGNANT CLAWS FROM HIM, YOU SCUM!

I KNOW YOUR MURDEROUS TRICKS. I HAVE SEEN YOUR DEATH-TOUCH IN MY SOULS EYE.
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT YOUR SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE HAS ME AT A DIS-ADVANTAGE.
THE LUXURY OF PLANNING IS NOT TO BE MINE.
NEVERTHELESS, YOU ARE A SINNER--
--AND
ZAKAIUS
SHALL CARRY OUT YOUR SENTENCE, AS ORDERED!

YOU DARE LOOK UPON ME WITH CONTEMPT?!
I, WHO PURGE THE GALAXY OF THE INIQUITY THAT BESETS IT!
IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN SELF-RIGHTEOUS SCORN AND FIRE-BALLS TO FELL ME, ZEALOT!
THE RIGHTEOUS ARE NOT TO BE MOCKED, LITTLE GOLDEN MAGGOT!
WE ARE TO BE FEARED!
SOMETHING TELLS ME SUPER-FLAME-TOSSING-FREAKS AND GASOLINE DON'T MIX.
I AM NOT EASILY GIVEN TO FEAR.
PETROLEUM

LET'S RIP THE LITTLE TWERP APART!
NOR, YOU SHALL DISCOVER, ARE MY ASSOCIATES.
EXCELLENT! I WELCOME ALL TRANSGRESSORS BEFORE ME!
FEEL THE POWER OF MY IMMACULATE WRATH!!
THE PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY IS OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE AGAINST THE MIGHT OF THE INFINITY WATCH!
BUT IN A MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREA LIKE PITTSBURGH, A STRAY BOLT OF COSMIC LIGHTNING--

KA-BOOM
--CAN BE A TROUBLESOME THING.
BY THE FATHER!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
TO BE CONTINUED


MARVEL COMICS
IN DOMAIN ZAKAIUS!
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH™
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MAR

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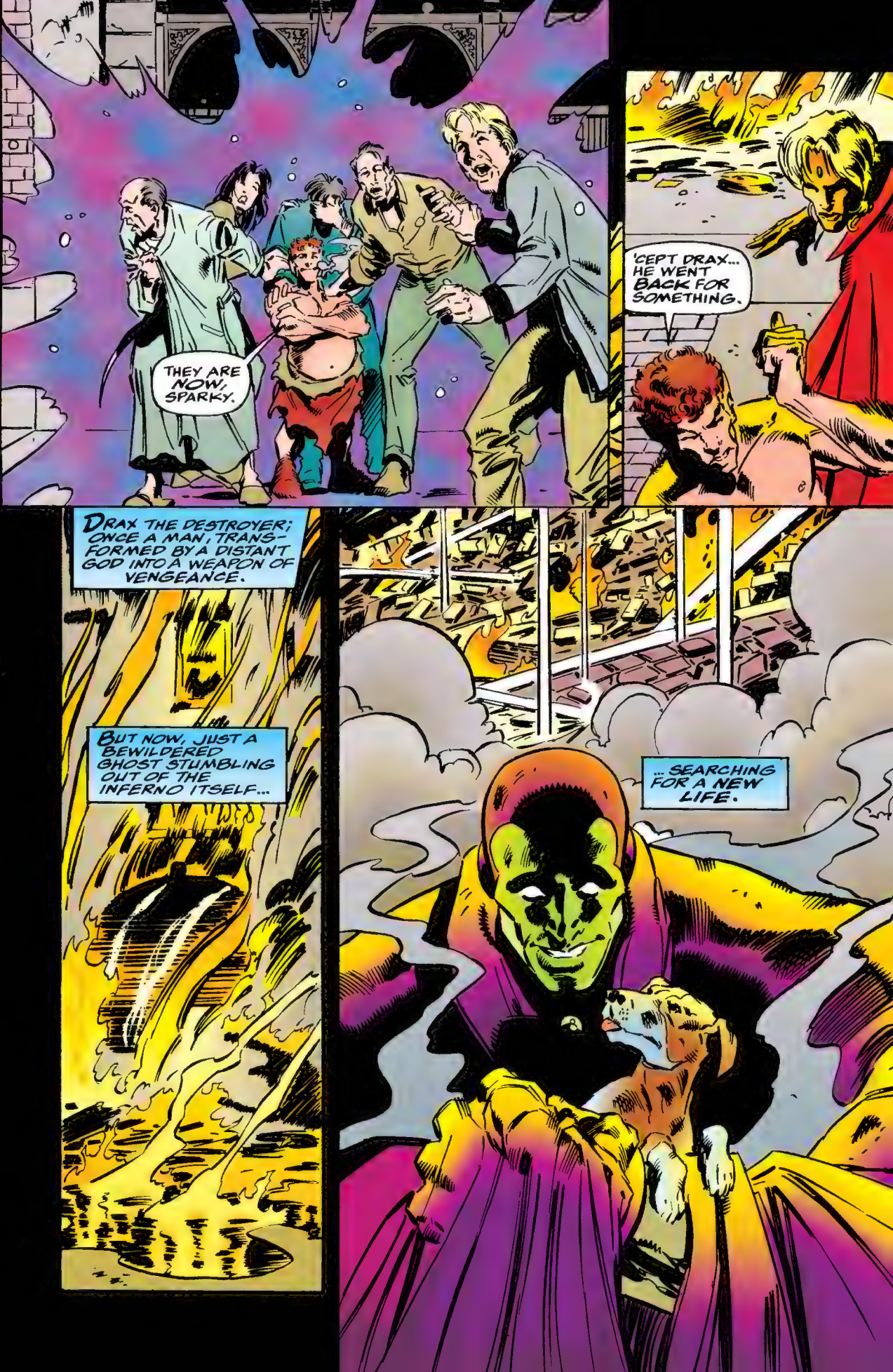
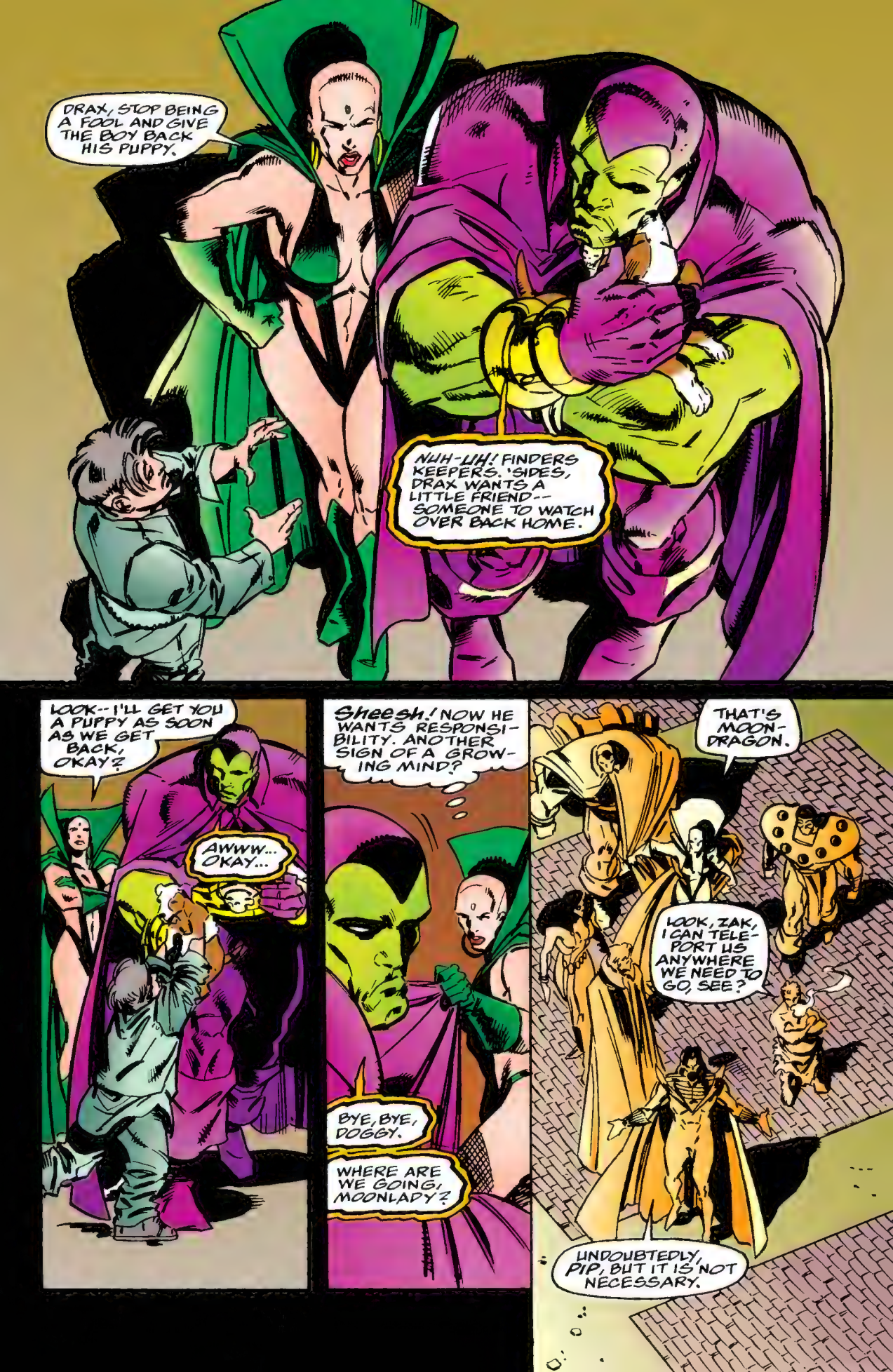
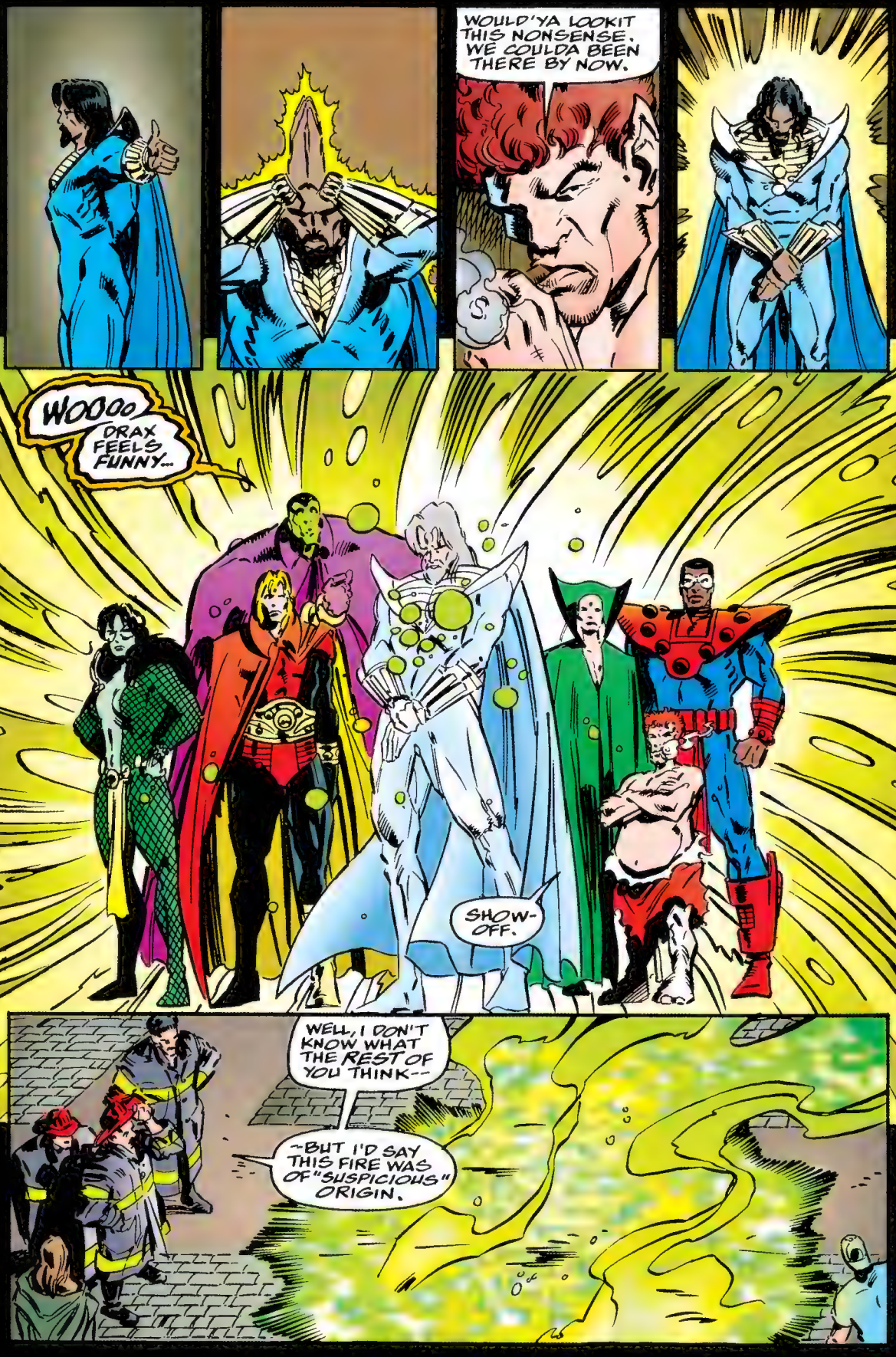

THEY ARE NOW, SPARKY.
'CEPT DRAX... HE WENT BACK FOR SOMETHING.
DRAX THE DESTROYER; ONCE A MAN, TRANSFORMED BY A DISTANT GOD INTO A WEAPON OF VENGEANCE.
BUT NOW, JUST A BEWILDERED GHOST STUMBLING OUT OF THE INFERNO ITSELF...
... SEARCHING FOR A NEW LIFE.

RUSTY!
RUSTY!
SO INNOCENT. SO, SO INNOCENT...
ZAKAIUS! YOU DID THIS! YOUR RECKLESS INSOLENCE IN COMBAT COST THESE PEOPLE THEIR HOMES... NEARLY THEIR LIVES!
A RIGHTEOUS MAN SUCH AS YOU COULD AT LEAST HAVE HELPED US!
FORGIVE MY INACTION, ADAM WARLOCK!
I WAS FETTERED BY THE PARALYSIS OF GRIEF BROUGHT ON BY MY CATA-STROPHIC ERROR!
YET EVEN THIS WAS NOT THE LIMIT OF MY POOR JUDG-MENT!
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO WRONG ABOUT YOU?

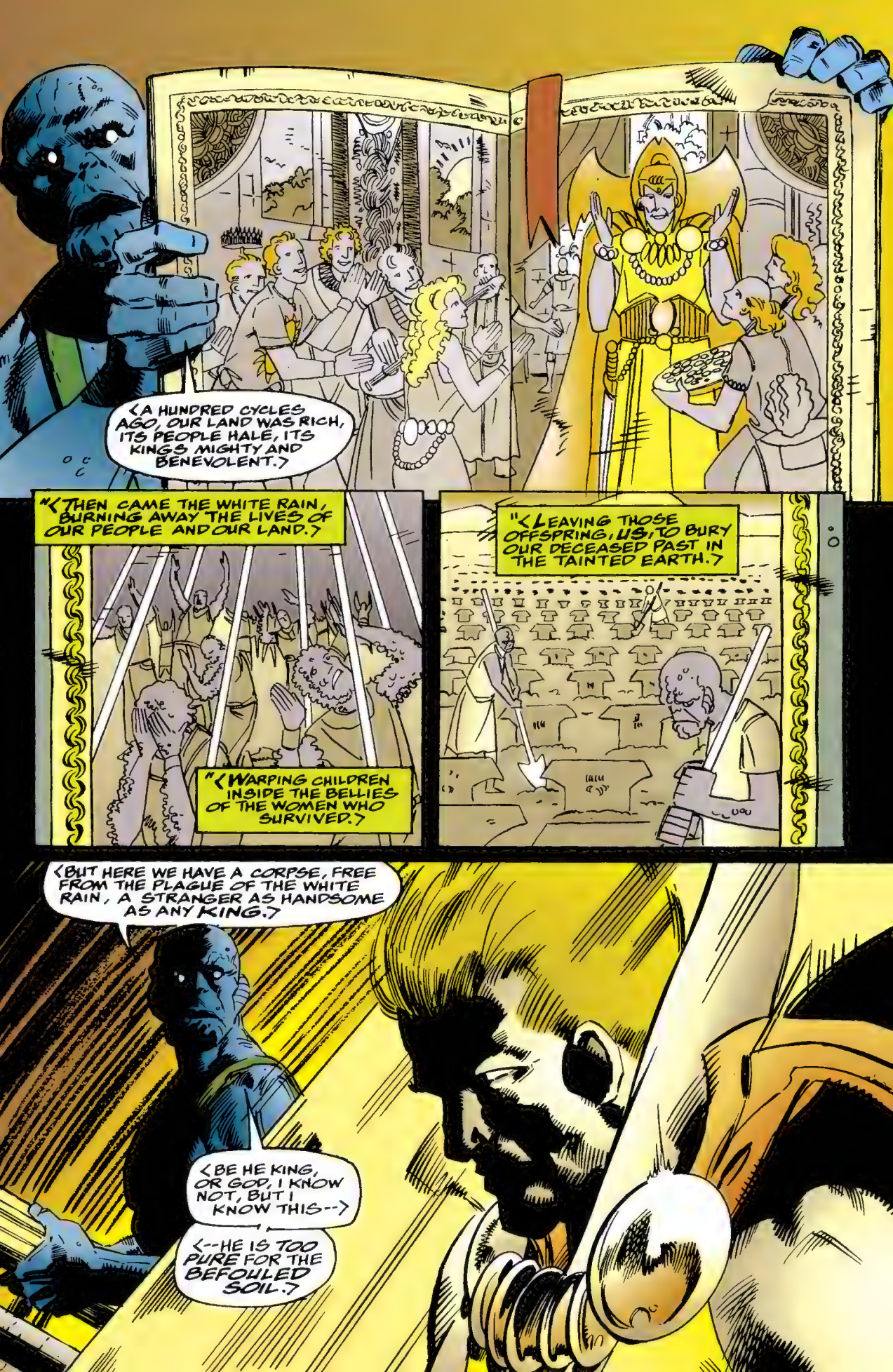
HAVE I LOST SIGHT OF WHAT IS TRUE AND JUST? IS THAT CONCEIVABLE?!
"YET IT WAS LORD DOMITIAN HIMSELF WHO APPOINTED ME EXECUTIONER FOR THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY ARE HIS SENTENCES, NOT MINE.
"AND SO I HAVE CARRIED THEM OUT, LO THESE MANY YEARS.
"CLUMSILY AND CRUDELY AT FIRST...
"... UNTIL I LEARNED THE SUBTLE VALUE OF CONFIDENCE...
"... HAVE I EXTRACTED THE LIFE-FORCE RUNES LORD DOMITIAN REQUIRES."

YOU AND YOUR WATCH HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE COURT AS COSMIC TRANS-GRESSORS.
I CAME TO EARTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF GATHERING INTELLIGENCE ON YOU FOR OUR IN-EVITABLE ENCOUNTER.
BUT HERE I HAVE SEEN MYSELF CAST IN THE ROLE OF VILLAIN, AND YOUR GROUP AS PALA-DINS.
PUTTING THE SAFETY OF OTHERS BEFORE YOUR OWN TO SET RIGHT MY CARLESS ACT OF DESTRUCTION.
YET IF DOMITIAN'S CENSURE OF YOU IS UNFOUNDED...
FATHER, HOW MANY... HOW MANY OTHERS?
I KNOW OF ONE OTHER.
A MISTAKE YOU CAN THANKFULLY CORRECT.
THE BODY OF FIRELORD, IN TRUTH A COSMIC CON-STRUCT, CAN BE REVIVED. I HAVE HIS SOUL, YOU HAVE HIS LIFE FORCE...
NOT I. THAT RUNE WAS RE-LINQUISHED TO AN UNUSUALLY COVETOUS DOMITIAN TWO WEEKS AGO.
BUT, PER-HAPS THAT CAN BE REMEDIED.


DRAX, STOP BEING A FOOL AND GIVE THE BOY BACK HIS PUPPY.
NUH-UH! FINDERS KEEPERS. 'SIDES, DRAX WANTS A LITTLE FRIEND-- SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER BACK HOME.
LOOK-- I'LL GET YOU A PUPPY AS SOON AS WE GET BACK, OKAY?
AWWW... OKAY...
Sheesh! NOW HE WANTS RESPONSIBILITY. ANOTHER SIGN OF A GROWING MIND?
BYE, BYE, DOGGY.
WHERE ARE WE GOING, MOONLADY?
THAT'S MOON-DRAGON.
LOOK, ZAK, I CAN TELEPORT US ANYWHERE WE NEED TO GO, SEE?
UNDOUBTEDLY, PIP, BUT IT IS NOT NECESSARY.

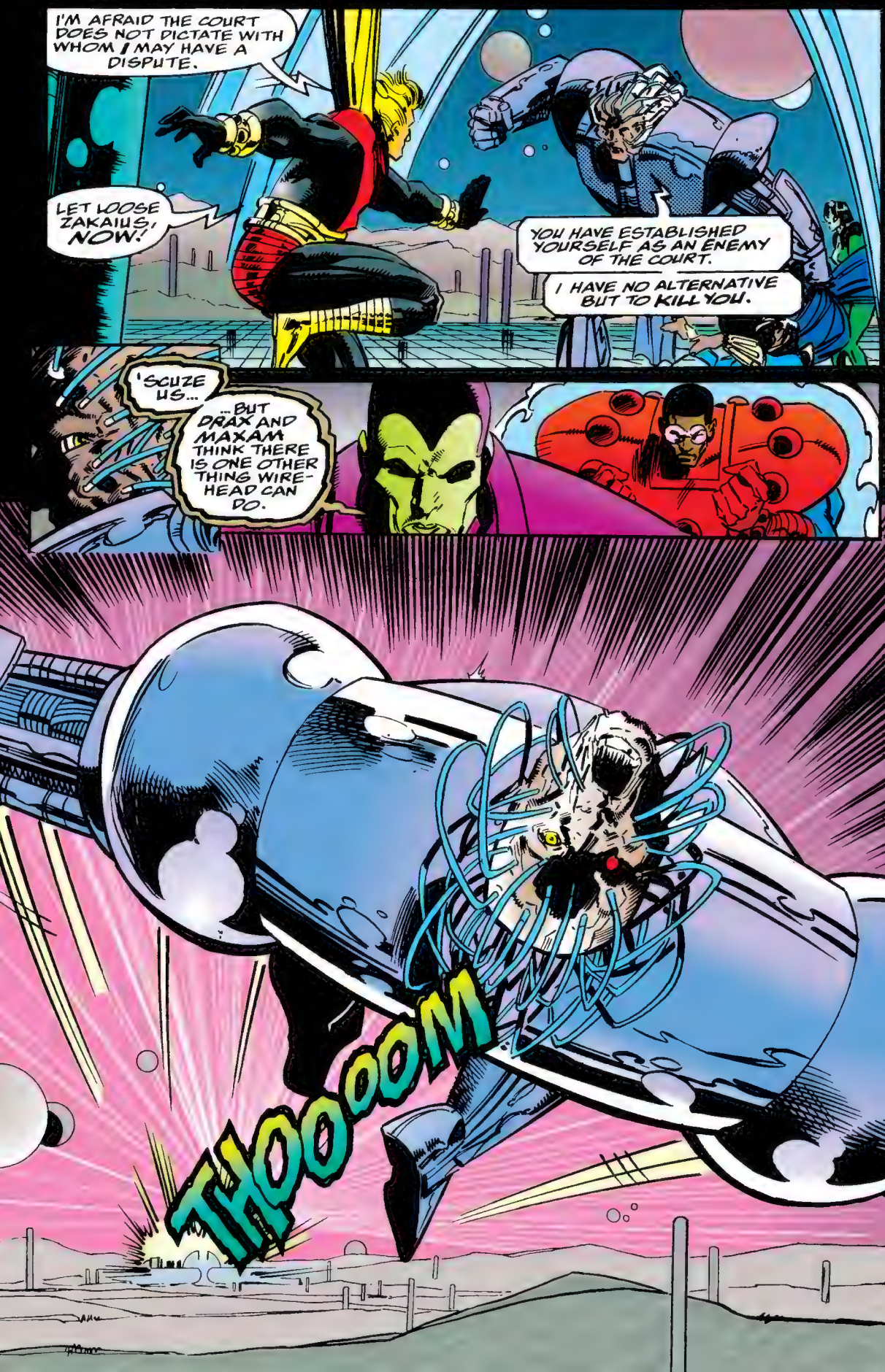

WOULD'YA LOOKIT THIS NONSENSE. WE COULDA BEEN THERE BY NOW.
WOOOO DRAX FEELS FUNNY...
SHOW-OFF.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE REST OF YOU THINK--
--BUT I'D SAY THIS FIRE WAS OF "SUSPICIOUS" ORIGIN.

ANOTHER TOWN, ANOTHER LAND, ANOTHER WORLD.
THERE, AS HERE, CURIOSITY BREEDS INSOMNIA.
NEVER BEFORE HAVE THE ADULTS GATHERED AT CHURCH SO LATE AT NIGHT.
CERTAINLY, FROM THE VERY DAWN THIS HAS BEEN A STRANGE DAY FOR YOUNG HARKORT.
MADE STRANGER STILL BY THE SCENE OF FIRELORD'S LAST RITES.
<SO WE MUST READ FROM THE BOOK OF TRUTH THAT WE FORGET NOT THE GREATNESS OF OUR PEOPLE.>
HARKORT


〈A HUNDRED CYCLES AGO, OUR LAND WAS RICH, ITS PEOPLE HALE, ITS KINGS MIGHTY AND BENEVOLENT.〉
"〈THEN CAME THE WHITE RAIN, BURNING AWAY THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE AND OUR LAND.〉
"〈WARPING CHILDREN INSIDE THE BELLIES OF THE WOMEN WHO SURVIVED.〉
"〈LEAVING THOSE OFFSPRING, US, TO BURY OUR DECEASED PAST IN THE TAINTED EARTH.〉
〈BUT HERE WE HAVE A CORPSE, FREE FROM THE PLAGUE OF THE WHITE RAIN, A STRANGER AS HANDSOME AS ANY KING.〉
〈BE HE KING, OR GOD, I KNOW NOT, BUT I KNOW THIS--〉
〈--HE IS TOO PURE FOR THE BEFOULED SOIL.〉

ON YET ANOTHER WORLD..
SEE YOU NOW! HERE IS THE HOLY PALACE OF LORD DOMITIAN!
YEAH-- I WONDER IF THE TURTLE WAX PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE.
DON'T KNOW ABOUT HOLY, BUT IT SURE IS SHINY.
KAEF, PLEASE ALERT LORD DOMITIAN OF MY ARRIVAL...
I SEEK AUDIENCE WITH HIM AS SOON AS HIS SCHEDULE ALLOWS.
WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR CONCERN?

I FEAR THE COURT'S INFORMATION MAY BE TAINTED, FOR THE INFINITY WATCH ARE PROVEN HEROES, NOT ENEMIES TO THE EMPIRE AS REPORTED.
I WISH TO REVIEW PRIOR SENTENCES WITH DOMITIAN. FIRELORD'S CASE IS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST.
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT A REPRIEVE IS IN ORDER.
REPRIEVE?!
THERE IS NO APPEAL TO THE IMPERIAL COURT.
TO QUESTION LORD DOMITIAN'S INFALLIBILITY CONSTITUES HERESY!
WARLOCK, YOU AND THE WATCH ARE RELEASED.
AT PRESENT, THE COURT HAS NO DISPUTE WITH YOU.


I'M AFRAID THE COURT DOES NOT DICTATE WITH WHOM I MAY HAVE A DISPUTE.
LET LOOSE ZAKAIUS, NOW!
YOU HAVE ESTABLISHED YOURSELF AS AN ENEMY OF THE COURT.
I HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO KILL YOU.
'SCUZE US...
...BUT DRAX AND MAXAM THINK THERE IS ONE OTHER THING WIRE-HEAD CAN DO.
THOOOM

WHY? WHY WOULD YOU DEFEND ME, WHO MOMENTS PAST TRIED TO KILL YOU?
IT HAS NOT SO MUCH TO DO WITH YOU AS IT DOES WITH FIRELORD.
Whew! He's still flying!
STILL, THEY ARE SELFLESS MOTIVES FOR WHICH YOU RISK YOUR LIFE. I... HAVE NEVER MET ONE LIKE YOU, ADAM WARLOCK.
I AM TROUBLED BY SUCH PRAISE SO EGREGIOUSLY MISSPENT.
BUT ONLY I CAN KNOW THAT MY AID TO FIRELORD IS AN EFFORT TO PUT THE GREAT WARRIOR IN MY DEBT.
A DEBT, AMONG OTHERS I HAVE AMASSED,* THAT I SENSE I MUST CALL UPON SOON.
*CHECK THOR #471 and RESURRECTION FOR THE "OTHERS".
ZAKAIUS!
YOU ARE A BLEMISH--! A BLEMISH UPON THE OFFICE OF IMPERIAL EXECUTIONER -- that's what you are -- A WEEPING SORE!
CAN'T COUNTENANCE IT-- can't. can't do that.
IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IS?
"INDEED. IT IS LORD DOMITIAN."
I WON'T BE DEFIED BY YOUR KIND!!
--Just see if I won't -- just wait and see.

SIRE, I HAVE CARRIED OUT MY DUTIES TO THE LETTER, AND BLINDLY SO.
NO LONGER. ADAM WARLOCK HAS LED ME TO THE TRUE LIGHT.
TRUE LIGHT?
ENOUGH OF THIS UNPRODUCTIVE CHATTER-- waste of my time, that's all...
YOU ARE NOT INDISPENSABLE TO THE COURT, ZAKAIUS. THINK ON THAT WHILE YOU MAY.
I DON'T GET IT. IS HE JUST GIVING UP, OR--?
I CANNOT SAY, BROTHER MAXAM. THE WAYS OF DOMITIAN ARE OFTEN DIFFICULT TO FATHOM.
WHOA!
HIS FLOOR PLANS ARE PRETTY WACKY, TOO-- UNLESS THERE'S A POOL UNDER HERE!

IN THE COURSE OF DOMITIAN'S JUSTICE, MANY FELONS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SUBMIT TO THE WISDOM OF THE COURT. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THEY GIVE UP THEIR LIVES.

BUT EVEN THAT IS NOT ENOUGH.

THE DEAD MUST LEARN WHAT THEY HAD REJECTED IN LIFE; THE VALUE OF OBEDIENCE AND LAWFULNESS.

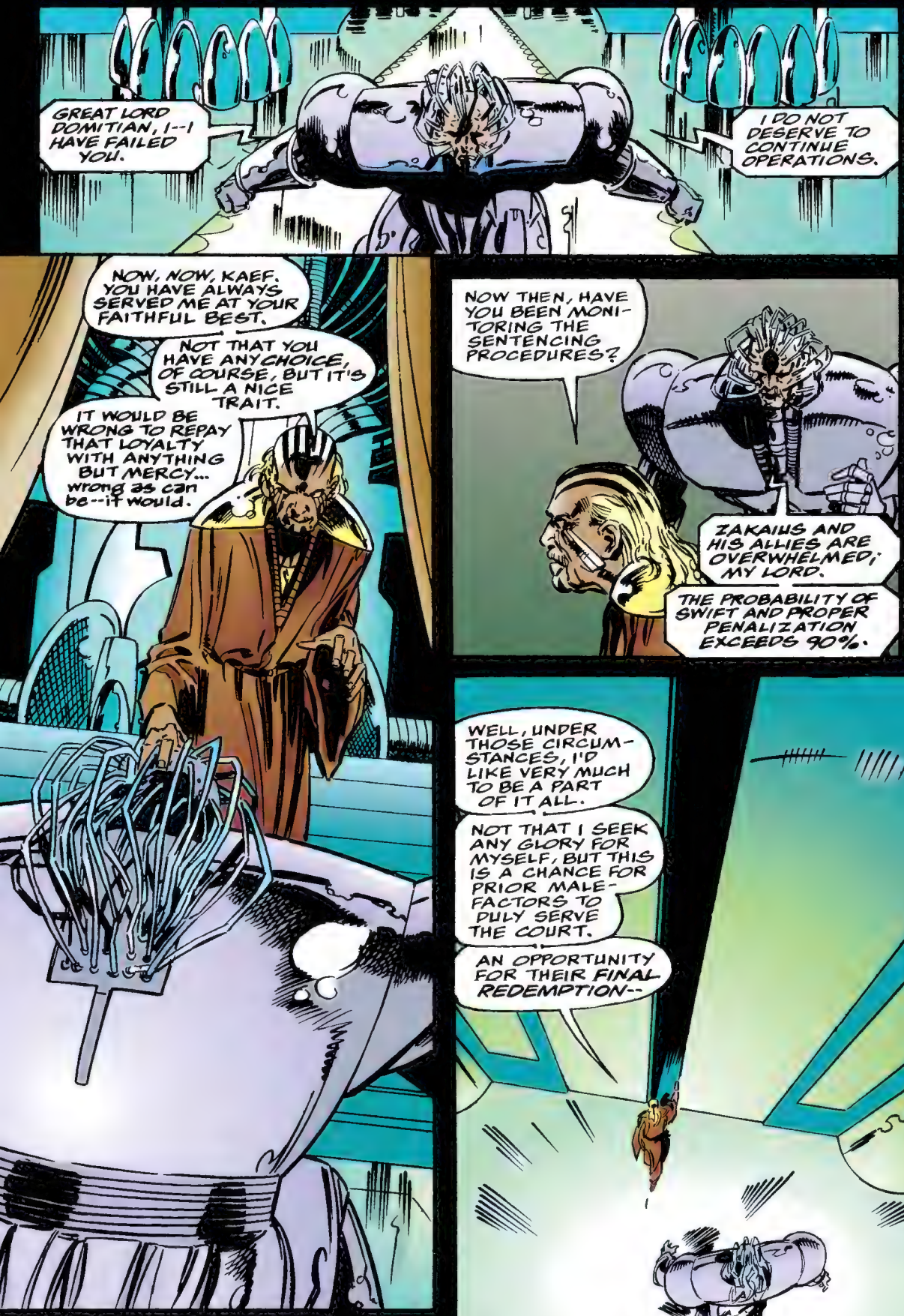
SYNTHESIZED NEURAL NETWORKS, HYDRAULIC PISTONS, AND PROGRAMMING SOFTWARE ARE THE TOOLS OF THEIR "EDUCATION."

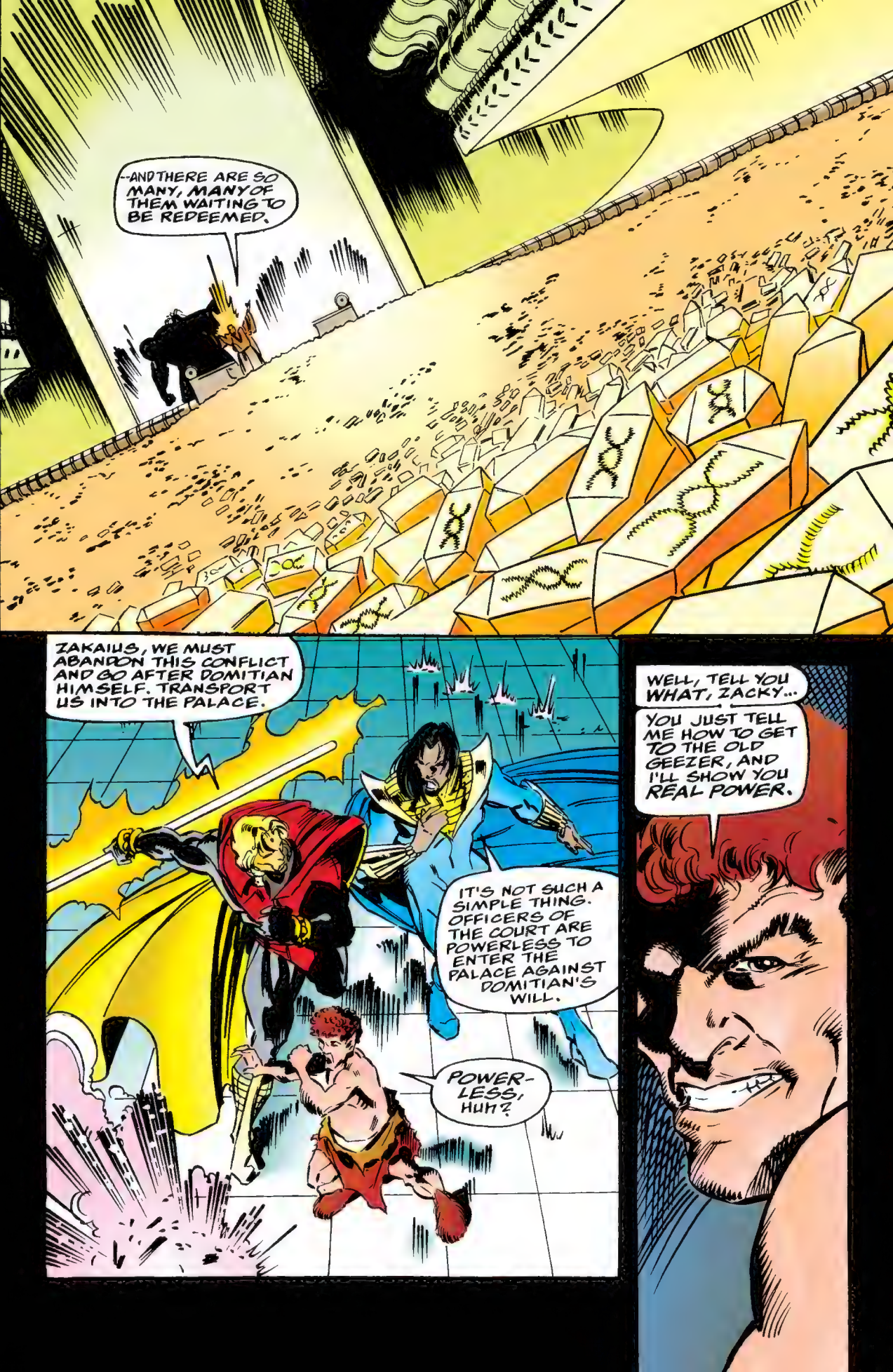
ALL OF WHICH MAKES FOR MODEL CITIZENS, AND SOMETHING MORE. AN IMMORTAL ARMY THAT MARCHES, FIGHTS AND SLAUGHTERS TO THE RELENTLESS RHYTHM OF DOMITIAN'S WILL.

A DOZEN GALAXIES DISTANT, ON LUAREI.
<IT IS A MAGNIFICENT BIER, CITIZENS. YOU HAVE DONE WELL.>
<AND NOW FOR THE PURIFICATION-->
<WAIT!>
<THIS IS NO PROPER FUNERAL!>
<HOW ARE WE TO COMMIT A KING TO ETERNITY WITHOUT HIS SCEPTER?>
<INDEED.>
<HUH?>
<OF COURSE.>

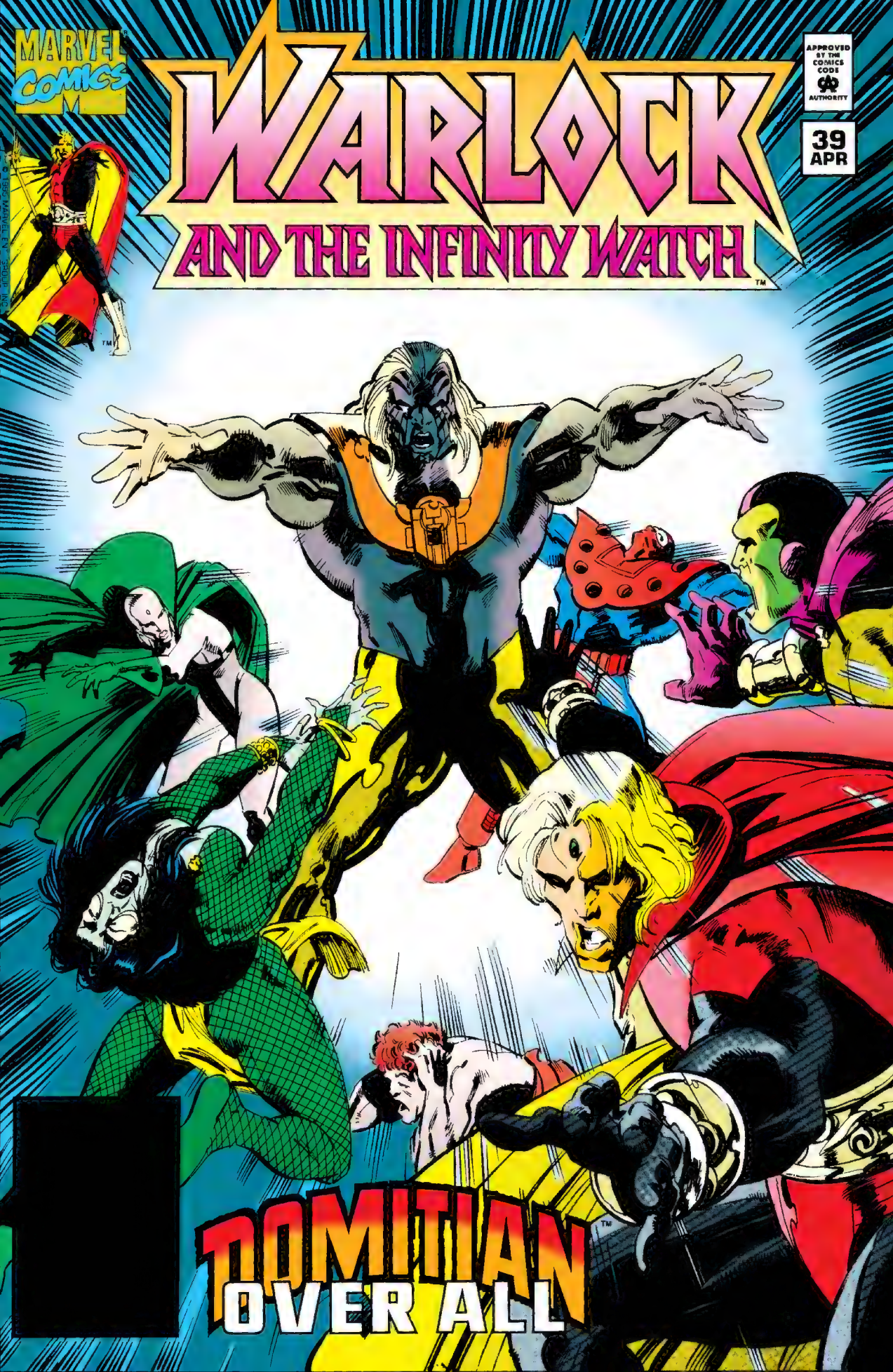
〈LET IT LOOSE, BOY!〉
〈NO! IT ISN'T FAIR!〉
〈I FOUND IT--IT'S MINE!〉
〈YOURS?〉
〈DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, SON! THIS IS WHERE IT BELONGS!〉
"〈SURELY NOW, NOBLE SON OF MANASSAS, YOU MAY SLEEP IN PEACE, FOREVER!〉"

MEANWHILE...
I'VE BEEN SCANNING THESE THINGS FOR BRAIN ACTIVITY, AND THERE SIMPLY IS NONE. THEY'RE NOTHING MORE THAN ROBOTS.
MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS BATTLE WILL HAVE TO BE LIMITED TO TELEKINESIS.
AND I CAN'T TRANSPORT AROUND MUCH EITHER. DON'T KNOW THE TERRAIN HERE.
FURTHERMORE, THIS CHAOS HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PLOT A CLEAR STRATEGY.
AT PRESENT, AS IS WOEFULLY TOO OFTEN THE CASE--
"--WE MUST RELY ON BRUTE FORCE FOR SUCCESS."
HEY, GAMORA, DIDN'T WE JUST DO THIS LAST WEEK?
YEAH, BUT THESE HIGH-TECH HORRORS ARE A LOT TOUGHER THAN THE MOLE MAN'S CRITTERS!
AND NOT AS FRIENDLY, NEITHER.


GREAT LORD DOMITIAN, I--I HAVE FAILED YOU.
I DO NOT DESERVE TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS.
NOW, NOW, KAEF. YOU HAVE ALWAYS SERVED ME AT YOUR FAITHFUL BEST.
NOT THAT YOU HAVE ANY CHOICE, OF COURSE, BUT IT'S STILL A NICE TRAIT.
IT WOULD BE WRONG TO REPAY THAT LOYALTY WITH ANYTHING BUT MERCY... wrong as can be--it would.
NOW THEN, HAVE YOU BEEN MONITORING THE SENTENCING PROCEDURES?
ZAKAIUS AND HIS ALLIES ARE OVERWHELMED, MY LORD.
THE PROBABILITY OF SWIFT AND PROPER PENALIZATION EXCEEDS 90%.
WELL, UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D LIKE VERY MUCH TO BE A PART OF IT ALL.
NOT THAT I SEEK ANY GLORY FOR MYSELF, BUT THIS IS A CHANCE FOR PRIOR MALEFACTORS TO DULY SERVE THE COURT.
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEIR FINAL REDEMPTION--


--AND THERE ARE SO MANY, MANY OF THEM WAITING TO BE REDEEMED.
ZAKAIUS, WE MUST ABANDON THIS CONFLICT AND GO AFTER DOMITIAN HIMSELF. TRANSPORT US INTO THE PALACE.
IT'S NOT SUCH A SIMPLE THING. OFFICERS OF THE COURT ARE POWERLESS TO ENTER THE PALACE AGAINST DOMITIAN'S WILL.
POWER-LESS, HUH?
WELL, TELL YOU WHAT, ZACKY...
YOU JUST TELL ME HOW TO GET TO THE OLD GEEZER, AND I'LL SHOW YOU REAL POWER.

YOUR BRAVADO IS WASTED, LITTLE PINK MONKEY.
THE ALMIGHTY DOMITAN HAS COME TO YOU!!
NEXT ISSUE: THE DEADLY CONCLUSION


MARVEL COMICS
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
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APR
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DOMITIAN OVER ALL

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Stan Lee PRESENTS:

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH

JOHN ARCUDI WRITER
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LAUGHLIN/PRISM • COLORS
JACK MORELLI • LETTERS
CRAIG ANDERSON • EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD • CHIEF

"<SURELY THIS IS SOME KIND OF GOD!>"

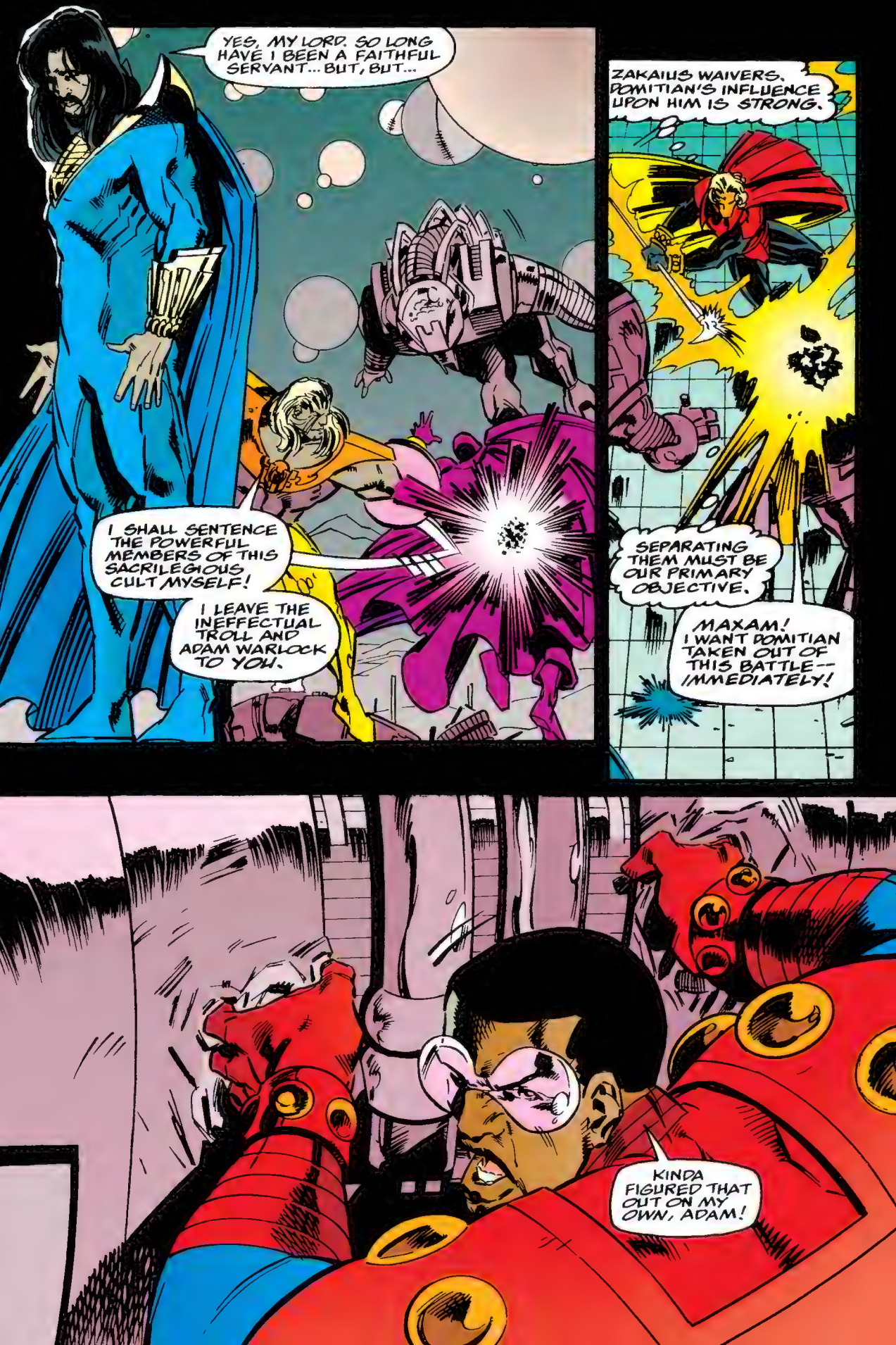
DOMITIAN OVER ALL

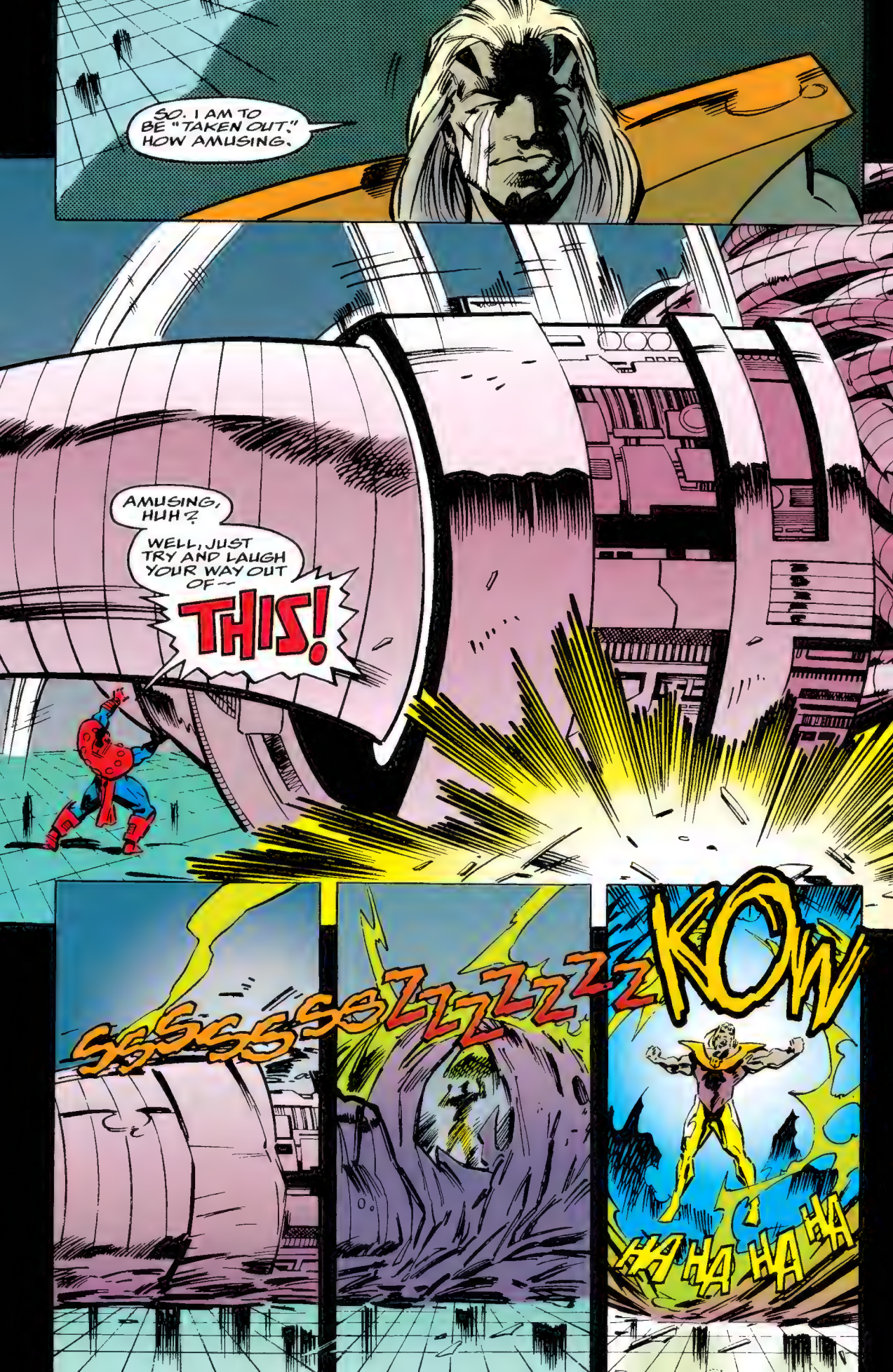
HOLD THE PHONE. THAT DOMITIAN GUY WAS AN OLD CODGER JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO.

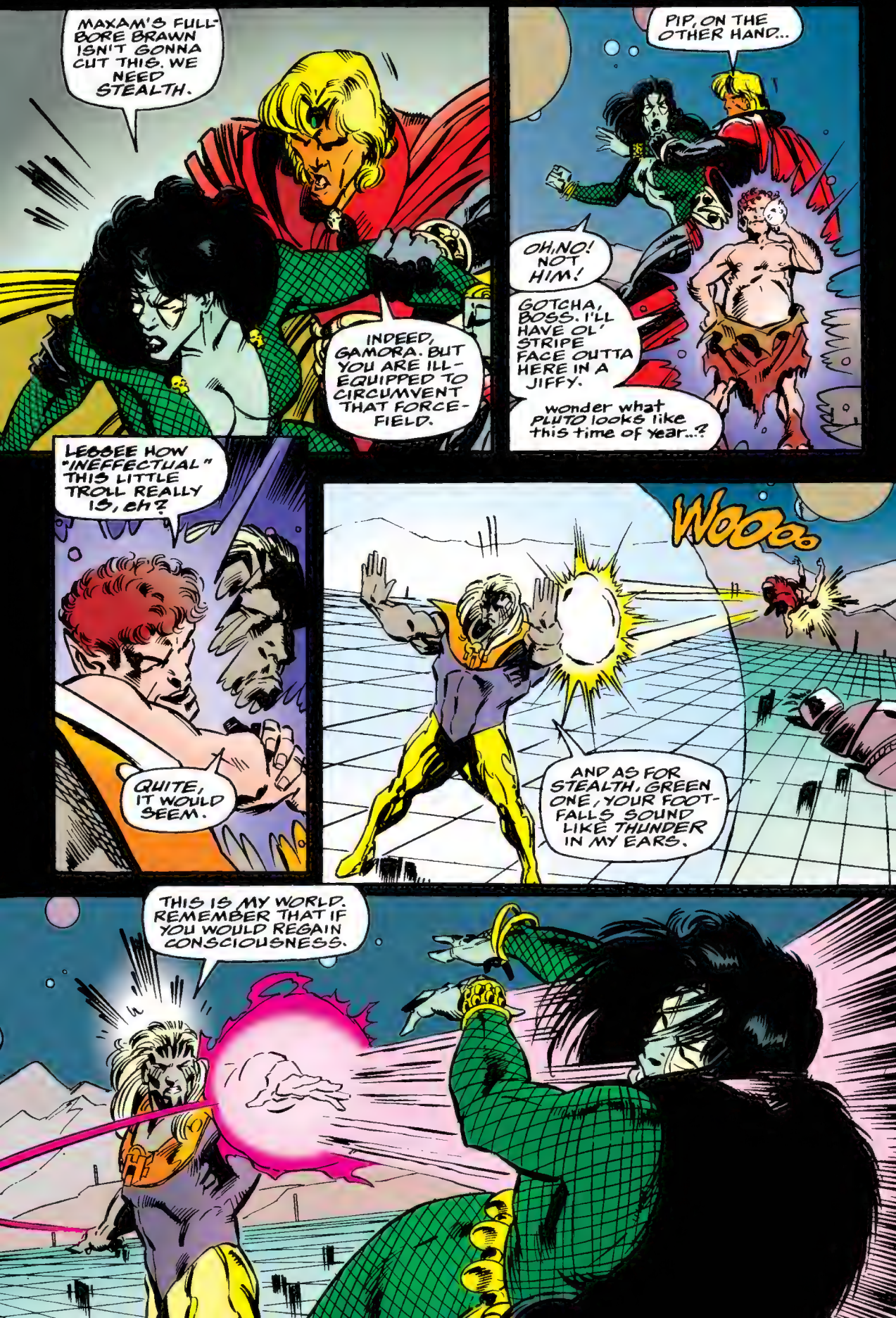
WHAT'S THE SCOOP, ZAK?

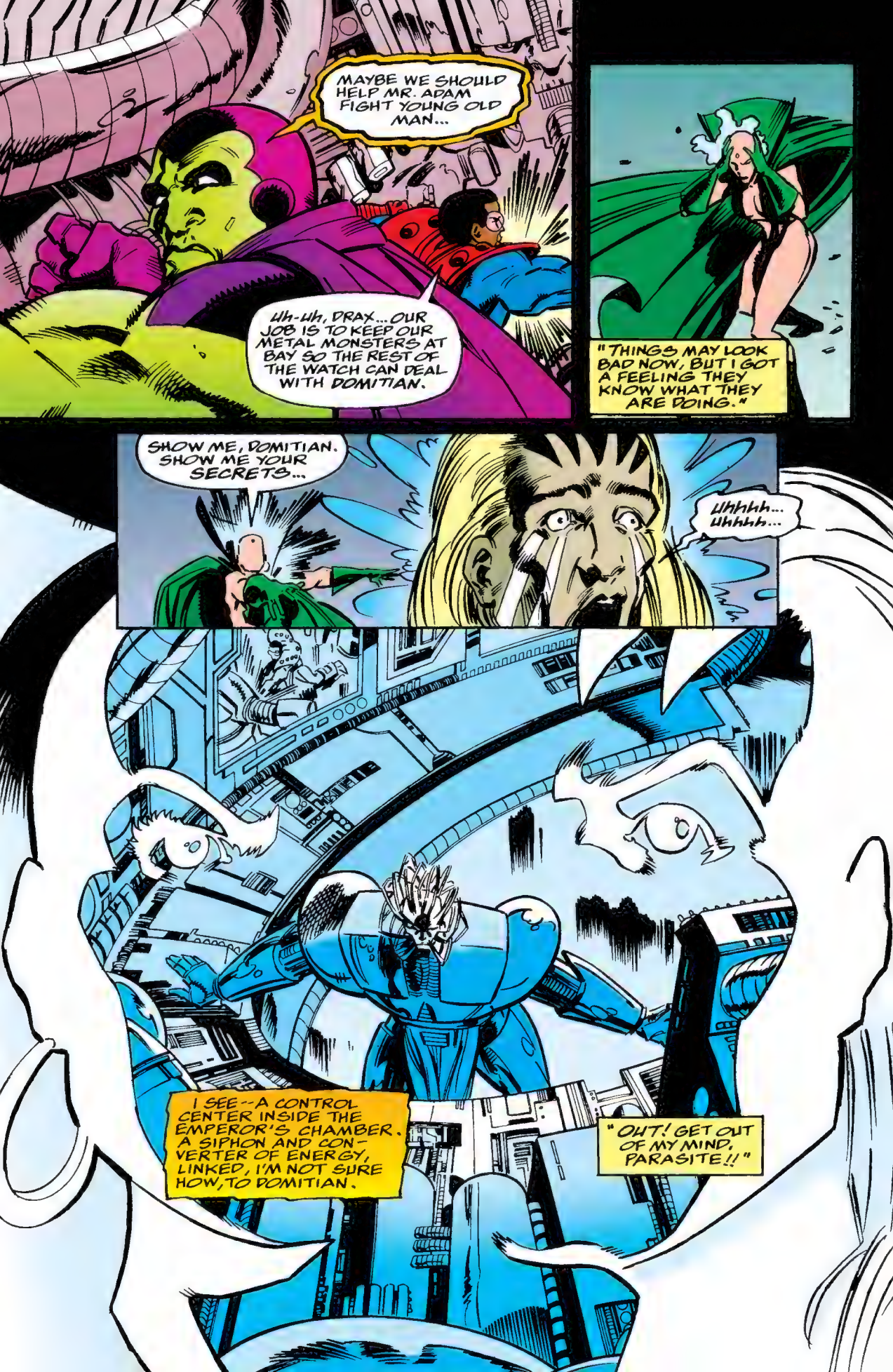
I--I AM UNABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR THIS.

COME, ZAKAIUS. JOIN YOUR LORD. BE ON THE WINNING SIDE OF THIS CONFLICT.


YES, MY LORD. SO LONG HAVE I BEEN A FAITHFUL SERVANT... BUT, BUT...
I SHALL SENTENCE THE POWERFUL MEMBERS OF THIS SACRILEGIOUS CULT MYSELF!
I LEAVE THE INEFFECTUAL TROLL AND ADAM WARLOCK TO YOU.
ZAKAIUS WAIVERS. DOMITIAN'S INFLUENCE UPON HIM IS STRONG.
SEPARATING THEM MUST BE OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.
MAXAM! I WANT DOMITIAN TAKEN OUT OF THIS BATTLE-- IMMEDIATELY!
KINDA FIGURED THAT OUT ON MY OWN, ADAM!

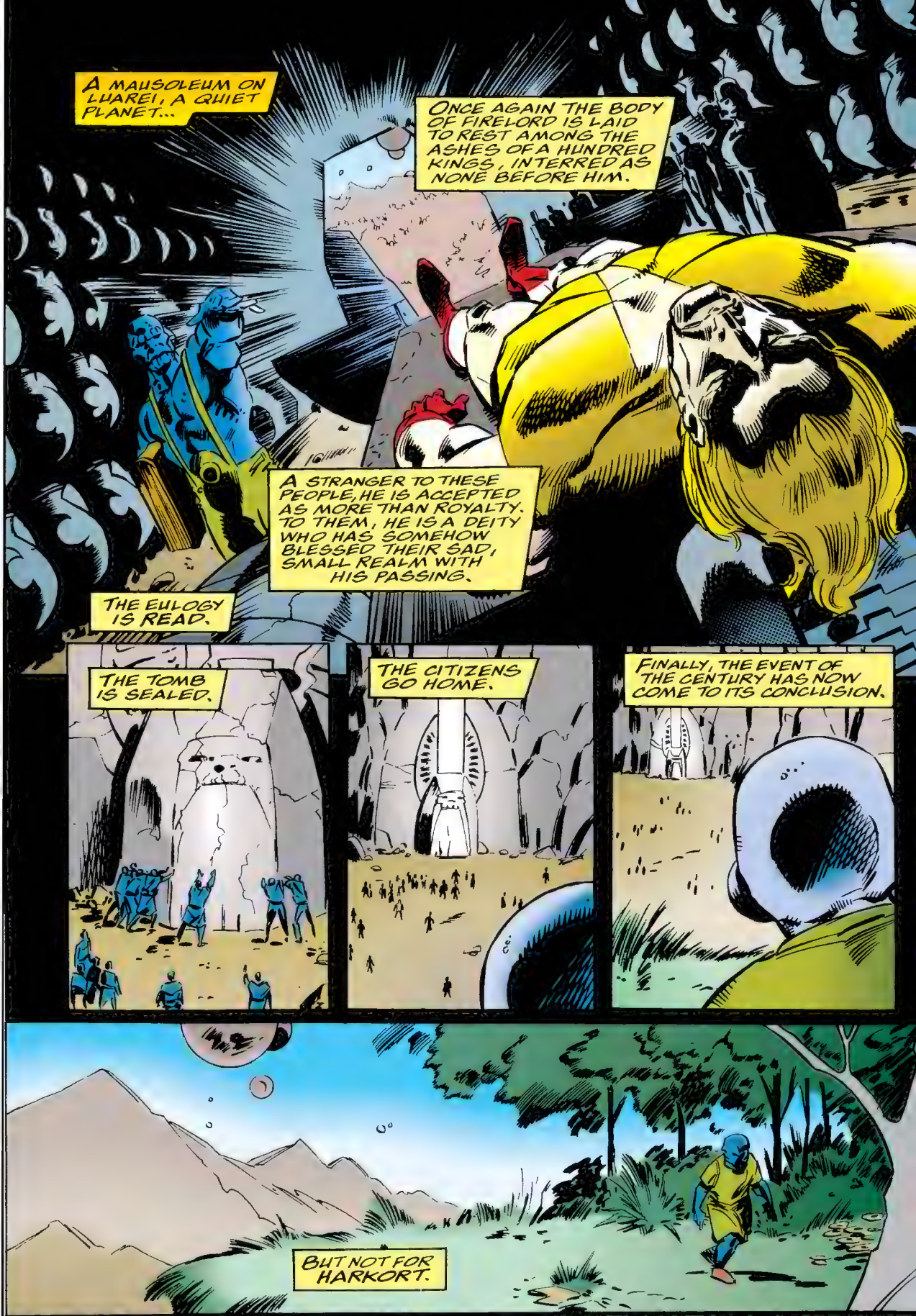

SO. I AM TO BE "TAKEN OUT." HOW AMUSING.
AMUSING, HUH?
WELL, JUST TRY AND LAUGH YOUR WAY OUT OF--
THIS!
SSSSSSSSZZZZZZZZ
KOW
HA HA HA HA


MAXAM'S FULL-BORE BRAWN ISN'T GONNA CUT THIS. WE NEED STEALTH.
INDEED, GAMORA. BUT YOU ARE ILL-EQUIPPED TO CIRCUMVENT THAT FORCE-FIELD.
PIP, ON THE OTHER HAND..
OH, NO! NOT HIM!
GOTCHA, BOSS. I'LL HAVE OL' STRIPE FACE OUTTA HERE IN A JIFFY.
wonder what PLUTO looks like this time of year...?
LEGSEE HOW "INEFFECTUAL" THIS LITTLE TROLL REALLY IS, eh?
QUITE, IT WOULD SEEM.
Wooo.
AND AS FOR STEALTH, GREEN ONE, YOUR FOOT-FALLS SOUND LIKE THUNDER IN MY EARS.
THIS IS MY WORLD. REMEMBER THAT IF YOU WOULD REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS.


MAYBE WE SHOULD HELP MR. ADAM FIGHT YOUNG OLD MAN...
UH-UH, DRAX... OUR JOB IS TO KEEP OUR METAL MONSTERS AT BAY SO THE REST OF THE WATCH CAN DEAL WITH DOMITIAN.
"THINGS MAY LOOK BAD NOW, BUT I GOT A FEELING THEY KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING."
SHOW ME, DOMITIAN. SHOW ME YOUR SECRETS...
UHHHH... UHHHH...
I SEE--A CONTROL CENTER INSIDE THE EMPEROR'S CHAMBER. A SIPHON AND CONVERTER OF ENERGY, LINKED, I'M NOT SURE HOW, TO DOMITIAN.
"OUT! GET OUT OF MY MIND, PARASITE!!"

AND THIS MACHINE IS FUELED BY ODDLY SHAPED TABLETS... NO, RUNES-- MILLIONS OF THEM...
NO!
HE UTILIZES THE LIFE-RUNES LIKE POWER CELLS!
THE VERY FORCE OF LIFE I HAVE EXTRACTED FROM MANY A FELON NOW DRIVES HIS MURDEROUS FANTASIES!
I DID THIS, ADAM WARLOCK! I AM THE ONE TO BLAME!
ADAM, WE HAVE TO STOP THIS FIGHT!
WHAT?!
DON'T YOU SEE? EACH SECOND DOMITIAN EXPENDS ENERGY, ANOTHER LIFE FORCE IS LOST, NEVER TO BE RECLAIMED!
EXACTLY SO, FEMALE. I CANNOT MASK MY RESPECT FOR YOUR TALENT...
AS REWARD FOR YOUR SUPERIOR DETECTIVE WORK-- AND YOUR UNHOLY MOLESTATION OF MY MIND--

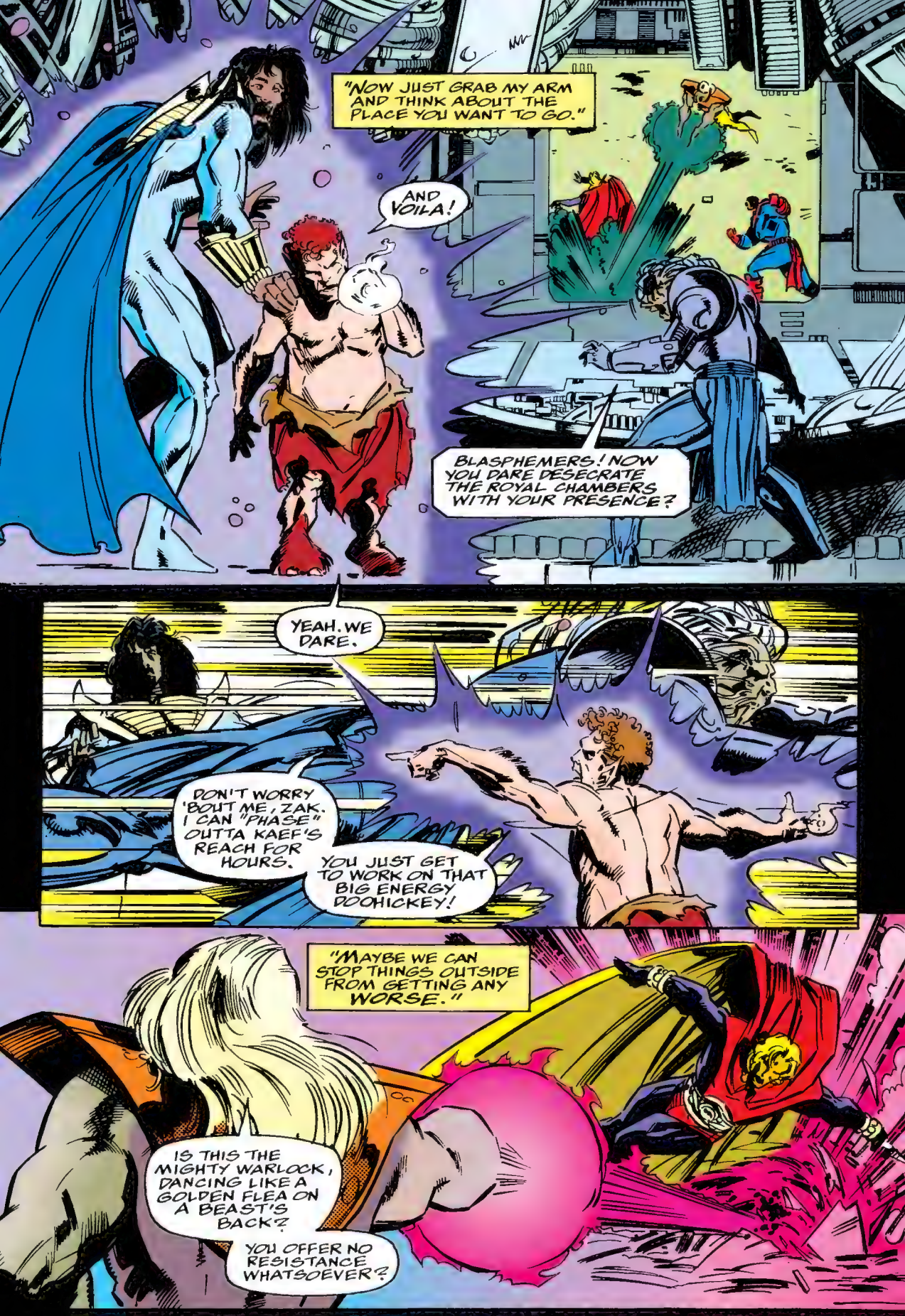
I SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH!
SHAAK
MOONDRAGON!
ARGH!


A MAUSOLEUM ON LUAREI, A QUIET PLANET...
ONCE AGAIN THE BODY OF FIRELORD IS LAID TO REST AMONG THE ASHES OF A HUNDRED KINGS, INTERRED AS NONE BEFORE HIM.
A STRANGER TO THESE PEOPLE, HE IS ACCEPTED AS MORE THAN ROYALTY. TO THEM, HE IS A DEITY WHO HAS SOMEHOW BLESSED THEIR SAD, SMALL REALM WITH HIS PASSING.
THE EULOGY IS READ.
THE TOMB IS SEALED.
THE CITIZENS GO HOME.
FINALLY, THE EVENT OF THE CENTURY HAS NOW COME TO ITS CONCLUSION.
BUT NOT FOR HARKORT.

HE HAS ONLY NOW BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT ALL MEANS...
YES, IT WAS HE WHO DISCOVERED THE VISITOR ONE DAY PAST.
BUT THEN HE SAW THINGS WITH THE EYES OF A CHILD.
YESTERDAY, THIS WAS A TOY.
TODAY, IT IS A BRIDGE TO ANOTHER WORLD SHROUDED IN UNDEFINABLE MAJESTY.
<THIS BELONGED TO A GOD.>
<A GOD TOUCHED THIS, AND NOW IT IS MINE.>

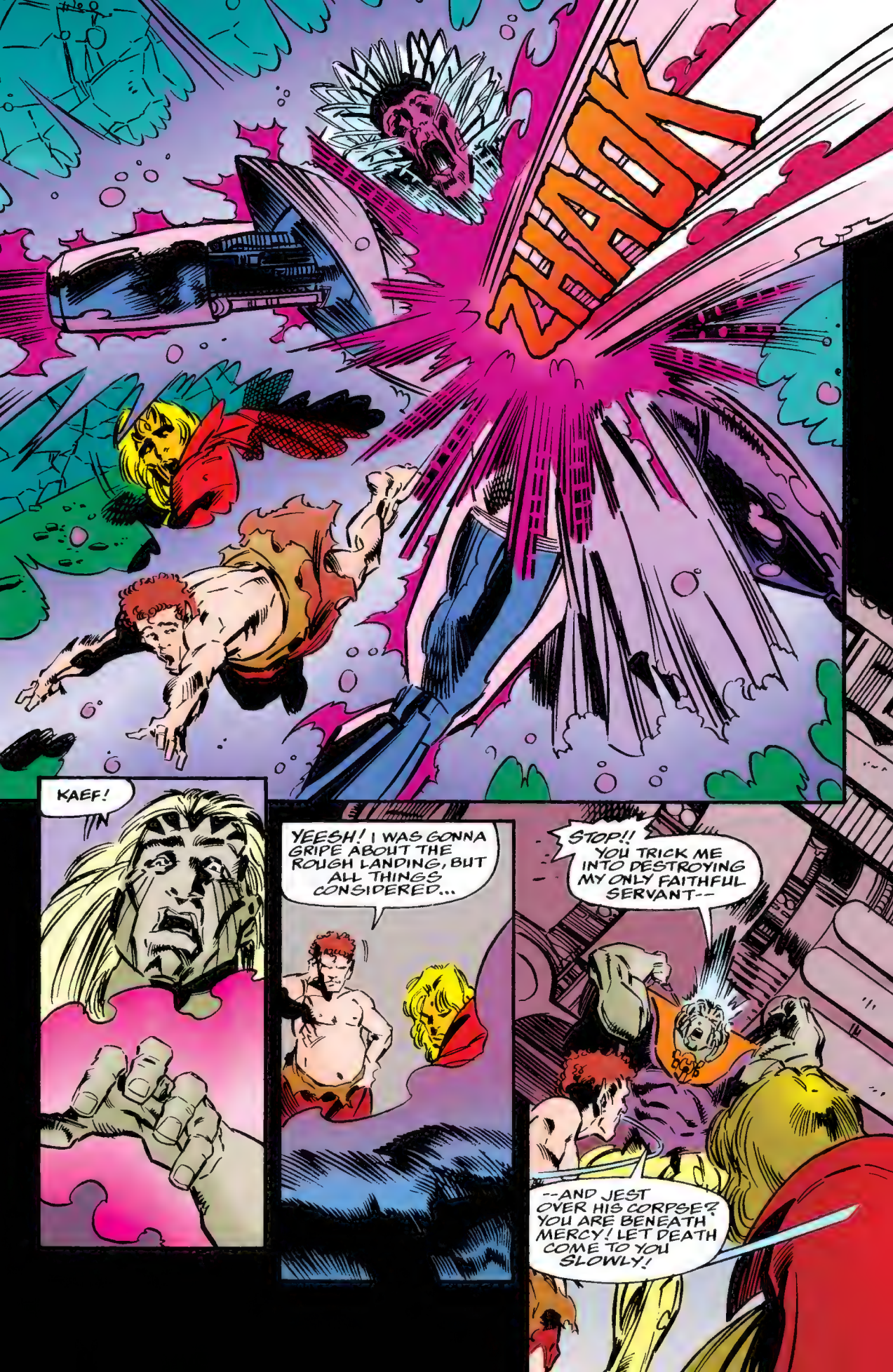
WHILE...
DIE! DIE! DIE!
YES, GO ON, GO ON, YOU SWOLLEN MUSCLED CRETIN, IF IT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY!
EACH BLOW YOU STRIKE COSTS ME VERY LITTLE OF MY POWER RESERVES. THREE LIFE-RUNES... PERHAPS FOUR.
DRAX, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP!! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
YOU ARE WRONG!
DRAX KNOWS HOW TO KILL!

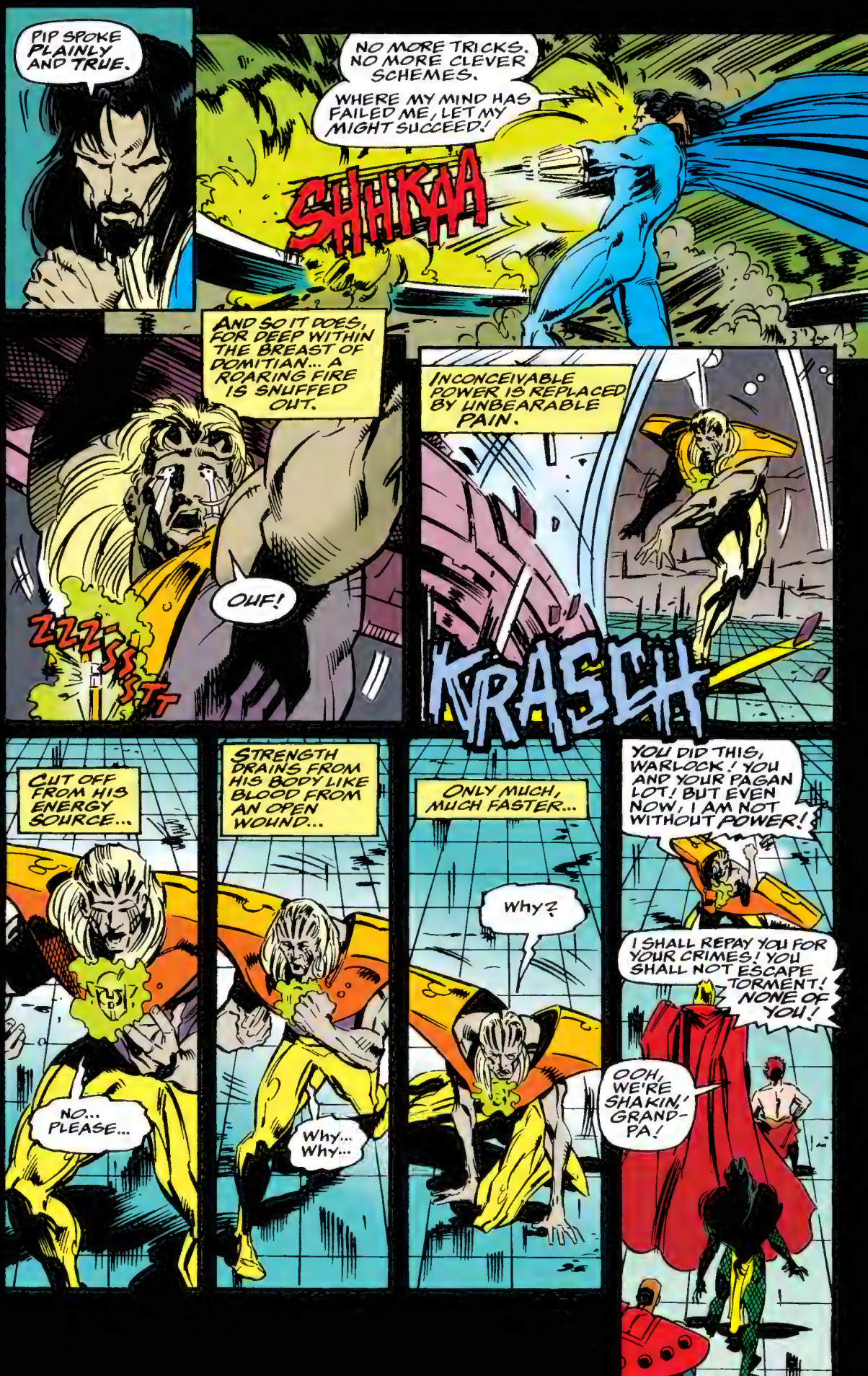
DRAX, PLEASE. YOUR ANGER TRANSFORMS YOU... SPINS YOU OUT OF CONTROL!
MOONDRAGON! ALIVE?!
YES, DRAX, AND I NEED YOU...
STAY AWAY FROM HER!
NOBODY BUT DRAX TOUCHES HER!
SURELY NOW YOU SEE DOMITIAN'S TRUE NATURE! PLEASE GET US TO THAT ENERGY TRANSFORMER!
HOW CAN I? IT IS WITHIN THE PALACE. MY POWER CANNOT TAKE ME THERE!
LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE, HOT SHOT, I CAN GO ANYWHERE!


"NOW JUST GRAB MY ARM AND THINK ABOUT THE PLACE YOU WANT TO GO."
AND VOILA!
BLASPHEMERS! NOW YOU DARE DESECRATE THE ROYAL CHAMBERS WITH YOUR PRESENCE?
YEAH. WE DARE.
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME, ZAK. I CAN "PHASE" OUTTA KAEF'S REACH FOR HOURS.
YOU JUST GET TO WORK ON THAT BIG ENERGY DOOHICKEY!
"MAYBE WE CAN STOP THINGS OUTSIDE FROM GETTING ANY WORSE."
IS THIS THE MIGHTY WARLOCK, DANCING LIKE A GOLDEN FLEA ON A BEAST'S BACK?
YOU OFFER NO RESISTANCE WHATSOEVER?

AH, BUT SUCH IS YOUR STRATEGY, YES? YOU SEEK TO MINIMIZE MY ENERGY EXPENDITURE.
HOWEVER, YOU HAVE ERRED, FOR I MUST RESORT TO GRANDER TACTICS.
AND EVEN YOU CANNOT HOP CLEAR OF A SOLID WALL OF ENERGY!
IT'S A TERRIBLE FEELING, ISN'T IT? TO FAIL, I MEAN...
BUT THEN, HOW WOULD I KNOW?

THAT'S ANOTHER MISS, BIG GUY!
PIP! ADAM IS IN DANGER! LOOK AT THE SCREEN!
HOLY MACKEREL! I'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE A CLOWN IN HERE!
STILL TIME TO ACT! THERE'S GOTTA BE!
TRIED THIS ON YOUR BOSS.
HOPE IT WORKS BETTER ON YOU.
C'MON, ZAK! DEACTIVATE THAT THING, PRONTO--
--OR ALL THE TRICKS IN THE WORLD WON'T HELP US!!
BUT... HOW?!
FAREWELL, HERETIC!

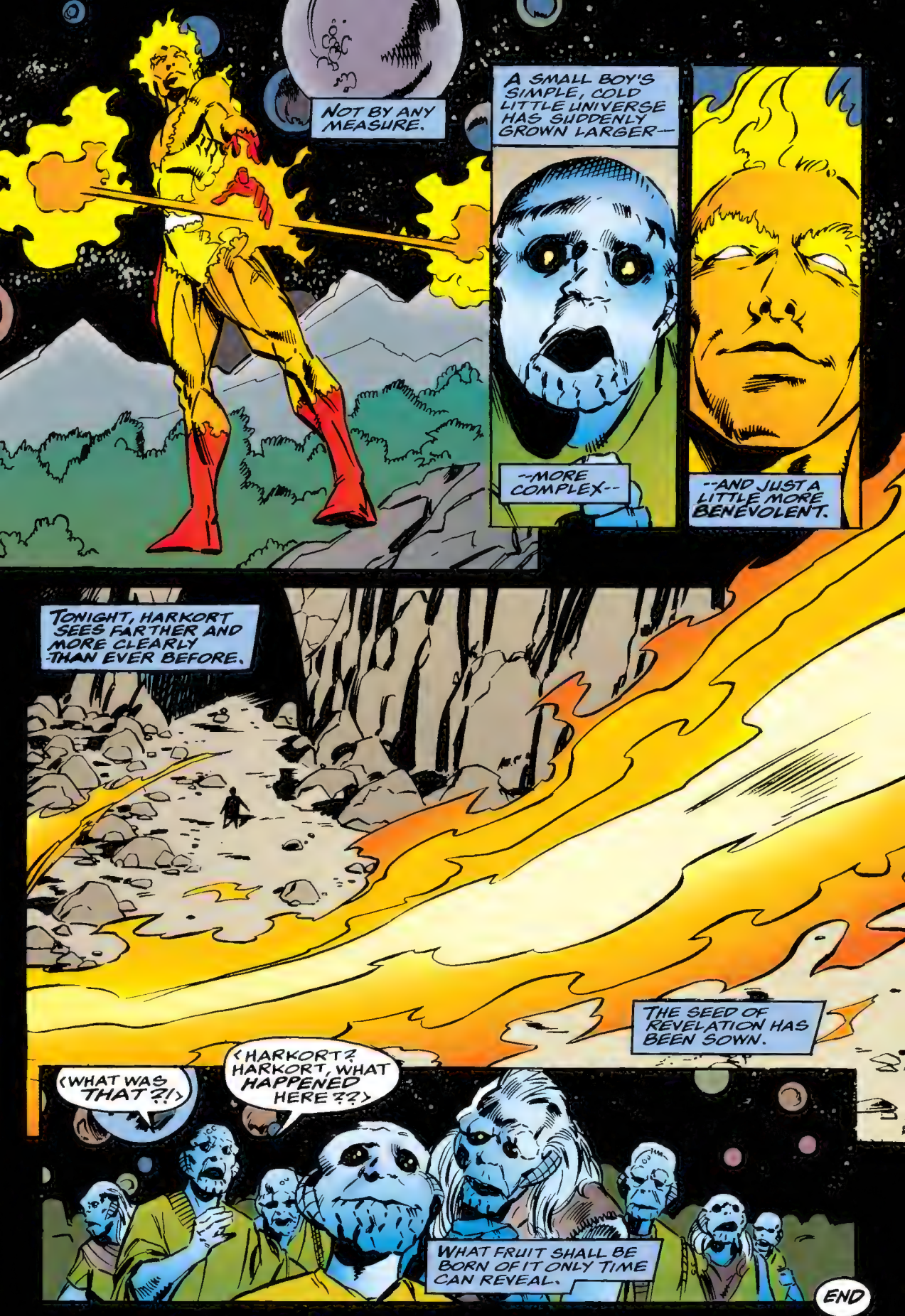

ZHAOK
KAEF!
YEESH! I WAS GONNA GRIPE ABOUT THE ROUGH LANDING, BUT ALL THINGS CONSIDERED...
STOP!! YOU TRICK ME INTO DESTROYING MY ONLY FAITHFUL SERVANT--
--AND JEST OVER HIS CORPSE? YOU ARE BENEATH MERCY! LET DEATH COME TO YOU SLOWLY!


PIP SPOKE PLAINLY AND TRUE.
NO MORE TRICKS. NO MORE CLEVER SCHEMES.
WHERE MY MIND HAS FAILED ME, LET MY MIGHT SUCCEED!
SHHKAA
AND SO IT DOES, FOR DEEP WITHIN THE BREAST OF DOMITIAN... A ROARING FIRE IS SNUFFED OUT.
OUF!
ZZZ SSS TT
INCONCEIVABLE POWER IS REPLACED BY UNBEARABLE PAIN.
KRASCH
CUT OFF FROM HIS ENERGY SOURCE...
NO... PLEASE...
STRENGTH DRAINS FROM HIS BODY LIKE BLOOD FROM AN OPEN WOUND...
Why... Why...
ONLY MUCH, MUCH FASTER...
Why?
YOU DID THIS, WARLOCK! YOU AND YOUR PAGAN LOT! BUT EVEN NOW, I AM NOT WITHOUT POWER!
I SHALL REPAY YOU FOR YOUR CRIMES! YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE TORMENT! NONE OF YOU!
OOH, WE'RE SHAKIN', GRAND-PA!

LATER AMONG THE RUINS OF FALLEN HUBRIS...
I THANK YOU, ADAM WARLOCK, FOR YOUR ENLIGHTENMENT OF MY SOUL.
THE GUIDANCE YOU HAVE PROVIDED ME THIS PAST DAY HAS MADE ME A BETTER MAN... AND I FEAR TO LOSE IT.
YOU ALSO HAVE NEW PURPOSE, ZAKAIUS.
YOU SWORE TO RESTORE THE LIFE FORCES YOU'VE STOLEN TO THOSE WHO MAY BE RE-VIVED.
LOSE IT YOU MUST. THE OTHERS HAVE TAKEN MOON-DRAGON BACK TO EARTH FOR TREAT-MENT. MY PLACE IS WITH THEM.
I HEAR THE TRUTH OF THAT, YET I AM AS A BABE IN THIS NEW WORLD OF YOURS-- THIS NEW LIFE YOU'VE GIVEN ME. HOW AM I TO FIND MY WAY...?
CLEARLY A PATH WORTH FOLLOWING... AND I SHALL START WITH YOUR FRIEND, FIRELORD.
THE SPIRIT IS RELEASED FROM ADAM'S GEM TO EMBRACE THE LIFE GEM.
THEY MERGE.
ALL THAT IS FIRELORD, SAVE FLESH AND BLOOD, RISES INTO THE SKY.

IT RACES ACROSS THE LIGHT YEARS-- ACROSS THE BOUNDLESS NIGHT--
PROPELLED BY THE FORCES OF LIFE, GUIDED BY THE LIGHT OF A SOUL.
IT KNOWS WHERE IT IS GOING.
AND HARKORT SHUDDERS AT ITS ARRIVAL.
FWISH
BUT WHEN MYSTERY DANGLES ITS LURE BEFORE YOUNG MINDS, FEAR IS EASILY FORGOTTEN.

"YOU FOUND THE STRANGER AND HIS STAFF," A LITTLE VOICE WHISPERS IN HIS HEAD.
"WILL YOU NOT SEE IT THROUGH TO ITS END..?"
ONLY THIS IS NOT THE END.
"YOU WERE THERE AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THIS FANTASTIC EPISODE.


NOT BY ANY MEASURE.
A SMALL BOY'S SIMPLE, COLD LITTLE UNIVERSE HAS SUDDENLY GROWN LARGER--
--MORE COMPLEX--
--AND JUST A LITTLE MORE BENEVOLENT.
TONIGHT, HARKORT SEES FARTHER AND MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER BEFORE.
THE SEED OF REVELATION HAS BEEN SOWN.
<WHAT WAS THAT?!>
<HARKORT? HARKORT, WHAT HAPPENED HERE??>
WHAT FRUIT SHALL BE BORN OF IT ONLY TIME CAN REVEAL.
END

MARVEL COMICS
THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR...
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
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MAY
MAXAM
VS.
GAMORA!
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O'NEIL
WILLIAMS

THINGS FALL APART

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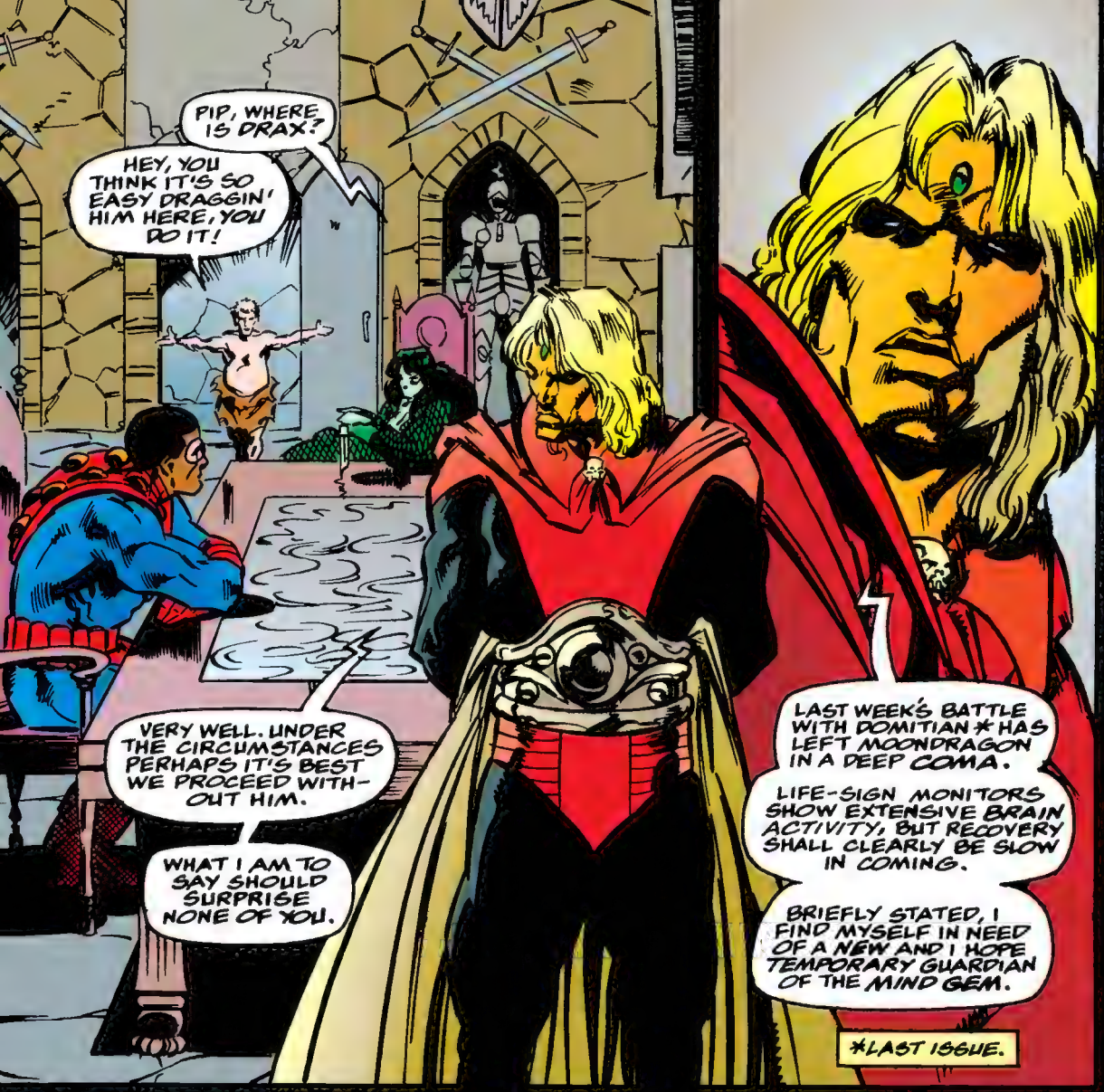
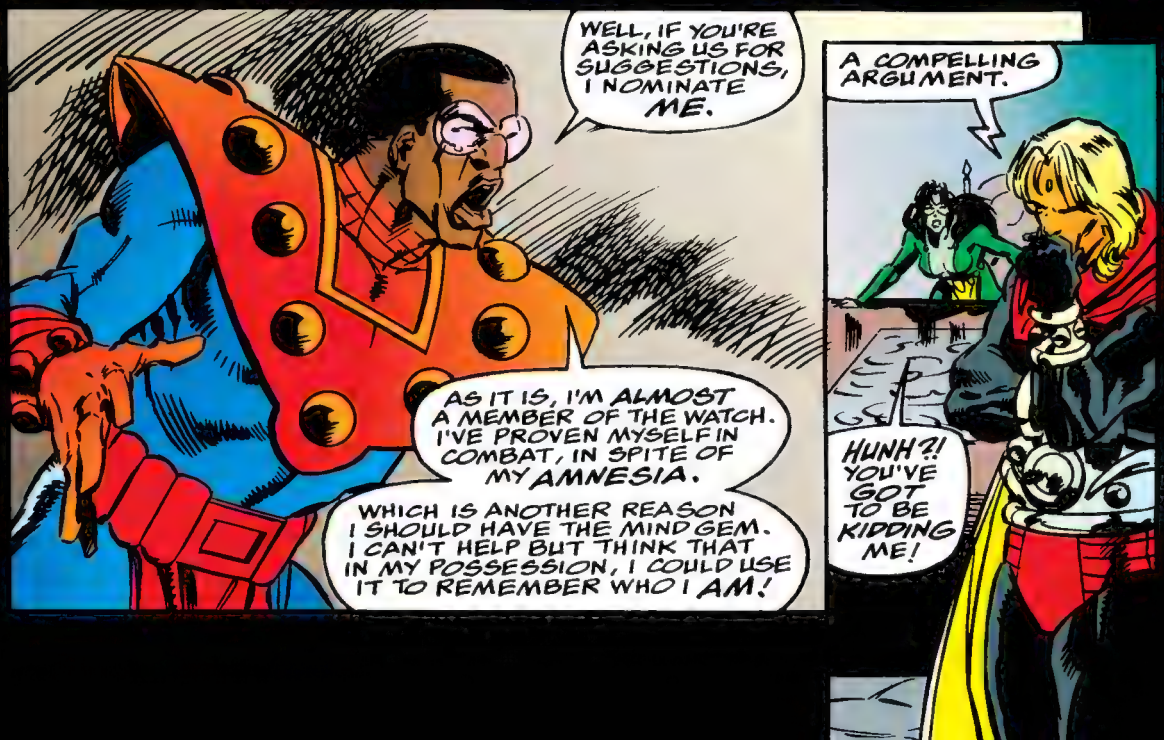
BETTER QUIT WHILE I'M AHEAD.
HEY THERE, BIG GUY, THIS WHOLE THING IS TOUGH ON EVERYBODY--
--A LOT WORSE FOR YOU, I GUESS--
--BUT YOU GOTTA BE BRAVE, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER. YOU GOTTA MOVE ON...
GO AWAY...
THAT'S JUST IT, DRAX... I CAN'T. ADAM'S CALLED A MEETING, AND YOU GOTTA...
STAN LEE PRESENTS:
WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH
GO AWAY, LITTLE RAT--
NOW!
O-OKAY. SURE THING.
WOW. NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THAT BEFORE.
GUESS MOON-DRAGON WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM. INTENSE EMOTIONS CAN JUST TAKE HIM OVER LIKE A BABY. MAN, THAT'S SCARY!


PIP, WHERE IS DRAX?
HEY, YOU THINK IT'S SO EASY DRAGGIN' HIM HERE, YOU DO IT!
VERY WELL. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES PERHAPS IT'S BEST WE PROCEED WITHOUT HIM.
WHAT I AM TO SAY SHOULD SURPRISE NONE OF YOU.
LAST WEEK'S BATTLE WITH DOMITIAN * HAS LEFT MOONDRAGON IN A DEEP COMA.
LIFE-SIGN MONITORS SHOW EXTENSIVE BRAIN ACTIVITY, BUT RECOVERY SHALL CLEARLY BE SLOW IN COMING.
BRIEFLY STATED, I FIND MYSELF IN NEED OF A NEW AND I HOPE TEMPORARY GUARDIAN OF THE MIND GEM.
*LAST ISSUE.


WELL, IF YOU'RE ASKING US FOR SUGGESTIONS, I NOMINATE ME.
AS IT IS, I'M ALMOST A MEMBER OF THE WATCH. I'VE PROVEN MYSELF IN COMBAT, IN SPITE OF MY AMNESIA.
WHICH IS ANOTHER REASON I SHOULD HAVE THE MIND GEM. I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT IN MY POSSESSION, I COULD USE IT TO REMEMBER WHO I AM!
A COMPELLING ARGUMENT.
HUNH?! YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!

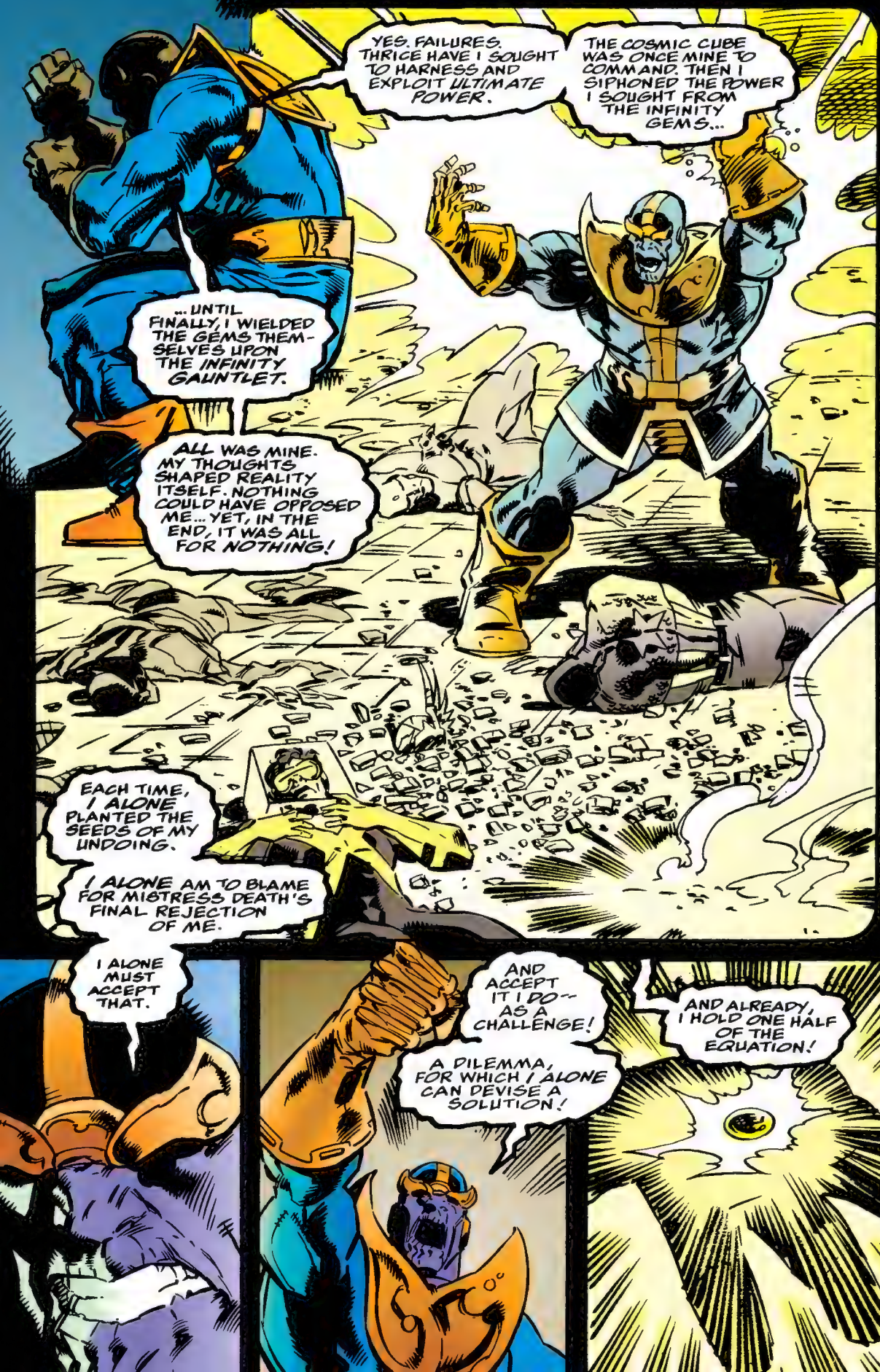
LET'S NOT FORGET WE'VE NO REASON TO TRUST THIS GUY!
LET'S EXAMINE WHY THE HECK WE SHOULD LET HIM, A MUSCLE-BOUND AMNESIAC NOVICE, USE THE LIMITLESS POWER OF THE MIND GEM.
HEY! WHO'S MUSCLE-BOUND?
MOONDRAGON WAS AN EXPERT TELEPATH! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
OKAY, FINE. I WON'T USE IT AT FIRST. BUT BLAST IT, I'M STILL THE BEST CHOICE TO GUARD THE THING!
AND I STILL SAY WE CAN'T TRUST HIM!
PIP-- SHUT UP!
OOhhh...
Yeah, let's not forget that.
ADAM, IT'S YOUR DECISION. IF YOU THINK I'M RIGHT, TELL US SO WE CAN GET ON WITH IT.
AFTER ALL, GAMORA WILL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY...

THAT'S HOW IT IS WITH PUPPY LOVE.
MAKK
KRANNG

OKAY, OKAY. THAT WAS A CHEAP SHOT.
I APOLOGI--
OOF!
WHAT
ALL RIGHT, LADY. YOU WANT A FIGHT, YOU'LL GET ONE.
COULD BE YOU NEED A LITTLE REMINDER OF THE LAST TIME WE TANGLED. *
*WARLOCK #17.

NO, I REMEMBER QUITE CLEARLY THE MISTAKE I MADE THAT DAY--
--AND THAT WAS THINKING I COULD LET YOU--
LIVE!

SIR, THIS SUDDEN ONSET OF LETHARGY IS OF SOME INTEREST TO US.
YOU HAVE DESIGNED US TO TREAT A WIDE VARIETY OF ILLNESSES--
MILLIONS OF MILES DISTANT, THE SPIRES OF THE DREADNAUGHT 666 SCRAPE ALONG AN ARM OF THE MILKY WAY...
PLEASE, YOUR PREPROGRAMMED CONCERN IS NO BALM FOR MY WOES.
LEAVE ME.
SO MANY MISTAKES...
SO MANY... FAILURES.

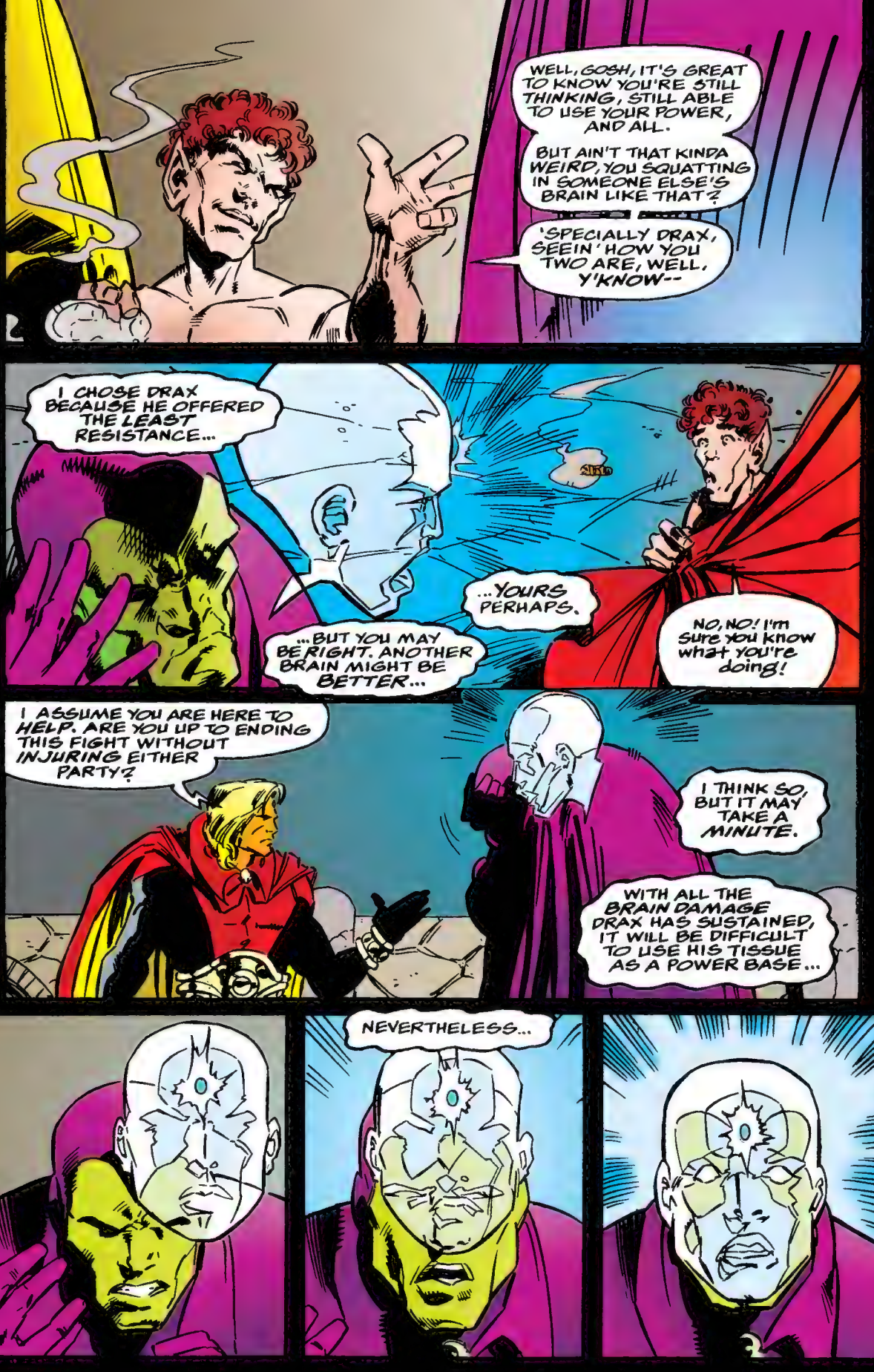

YES. FAILURES. THRICE HAVE I SOUGHT TO HARNESS AND EXPLOIT ULTIMATE POWER.
THE COSMIC CUBE WAS ONCE MINE TO COMMAND. THEN I SIPHONED THE POWER I SOUGHT FROM THE INFINITY GEMS...
...UNTIL FINALLY, I WIELDED THE GEMS THEMSELVES UPON THE INFINITY GAUNTLET.
ALL WAS MINE. MY THOUGHTS SHAPED REALITY ITSELF. NOTHING COULD HAVE OPPOSED ME...YET, IN THE END, IT WAS ALL FOR NOTHING!
EACH TIME, I ALONE PLANTED THE SEEDS OF MY UNDOING.
I ALONE AM TO BLAME FOR MISTRESS DEATH'S FINAL REJECTION OF ME.
I ALONE MUST ACCEPT THAT.
AND ACCEPT IT I DO--AS A CHALLENGE!
A DILEMMA, FOR WHICH I ALONE CAN DEVISE A SOLUTION!
AND ALREADY, I HOLD ONE HALF OF THE EQUATION!

WHANG!
BLAST! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK GAMORA HAD WARMED UP TO ME THESE PAST FEW WEEKS.
BUT IF I HADN'T MOVED MY HEAD--!
CHUNK
YOU'RE TOUGH MAXI, BUT EVERY-BODY'S GOT A WEAK SPOT!
GUESS IT'S TIME TO FACE FACTS. WE'LL NEVER BE FRIENDS!
YAAAAA! THAT HURT, YOU MISERABLE HARPY!
AND I THINK I JUST FOUND ONE!

ENOUGH!
GOSH, YOU RATTLE EASY, DON'T YOU?
GUESS WHEN YOU LOST YOUR MEMORY YOU FORGOT THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE OF BATTLE...
"COOLER HEADS USUALLY PREVAIL."

OKAY, LADY. YOU'RE FAST. YOU'RE COOL. BUT WHAT ARE YOU ACCOMPLISHING?
YOU MUST KNOW YOU'RE NOT HURTING ME. NOT REALLY...
FACT IS, I CAN DO THIS ALL DAY.
SCHMM
CAN YOU?
THIS BEHAVIOR IS REPREHENSIBLE.
YET I DARE NOT INTERFERE. A KARMIC BLAST TO ONE WOULD LEAVE AN OPENING FOR THE OTHER THAT MIGHT PROVE FATAL.
YEP. I DASN'T INTERFERE EITHER. NO MATTER WHO I TRANSPORT AWAY FROM HERE--
--I'M BOUND TO GET HAMMERED FOR MY TROUBLE! NO THANKS!
DRAX HAS A KNACK FOR DEFUSING HOSTILITIES, YES?
THAT WAS YESTERDAY. THE MOOD HE'S IN NOW, HE MIGHT JUST KILL 'EM BOTH.

MR. ADAM... HEAD HURTS.
MOONLADY IS MAKING DRAX'S HEAD HURT.
DRAX, WHAT DO YOU MEAN MOONDRAGON IS HURTING YOU?
WHAT HE MEANS IS...
...MY MENTAL PRESENCE IN HIS BRAIN CAUSES HIM GREAT DISTRESS...
...AS IT DOES ME...!
HOLY CHIHUAHUA! SHE'S TAKEN OVER DRAX'S BODY!
INCORRECT. I MERELY AM EMPLOYING DRAX'S BRAIN AS A KIND OF "LENS"--
--THROUGH WHICH I MAY FOCUS MY TELEPATHIC POWERS. IT GIVES ME MOBILITY.
hurts...


WELL, GOSH, IT'S GREAT TO KNOW YOU'RE STILL THINKING, STILL ABLE TO USE YOUR POWER, AND ALL.
BUT AIN'T THAT KINDA WEIRD, YOU SQUATTING IN SOMEONE ELSE'S BRAIN LIKE THAT?
'SPECIALLY DRAX, SEEIN' HOW YOU TWO ARE, WELL, Y'KNOW--
I CHOSE DRAX BECAUSE HE OFFERED THE LEAST RESISTANCE...
...BUT YOU MAY BE RIGHT. ANOTHER BRAIN MIGHT BE BETTER...
...YOURS PERHAPS.
NO, NO! I'm sure you know what you're doing!
I ASSUME YOU ARE HERE TO HELP. ARE YOU UP TO ENDING THIS FIGHT WITHOUT INJURING EITHER PARTY?
I THINK SO, BUT IT MAY TAKE A MINUTE.
WITH ALL THE BRAIN DAMAGE DRAX HAS SUSTAINED, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO USE HIS TISSUE AS A POWER BASE...
NEVERTHELESS...

MOONLADY, DON'T GET MAD AT DRAX, BUT DRAX THINKS YOU SHOULDN'T BE IN HIS HEAD.
DRAX LIKES MOONLADY. LIKES HER LOTS, BUT THERE'S ONLY ROOM IN HERE FOR ONE.
WITH YOU ALL SQUEEZED IN, IT GIVES DRAX A HEADACHE!
DRAX, I HAVE TO DO THIS.
I MUST DEMONSTRATE TO THE WATCH THAT I'M STILL A VITAL PART OF THIS TEAM...
...DESPITE MY PHYSICAL CONDITION!
I'M SORRY, BUT FOR NOW, THIS IS HOW IT MUST BE.
NOW PLEASE, LET ME CONCENTRATE.
UH, MOON-LADY...?
NOT NOW!

BUT HOW COME ALLA SUDDEN MOONLADY LOOKS LIKE LITTLE GIRL?
WHAT IN THE NAME OF--?!
MOONLADY, WHY... WH... WAIT!
HIS FACE!
HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO BLIND?! HERE IN DRAX'S BRAIN, MY MEMORIES, AND MY THOUGHTS ARE HIS THOUGHTS...
DRAX KNOWS THIS GIRL. ISN'T LITTLE GIRL'S NAME HE-- HEA--
...ARE MY THOUGHTS ARE HIS ARE MINE ARE...
NOOOO!

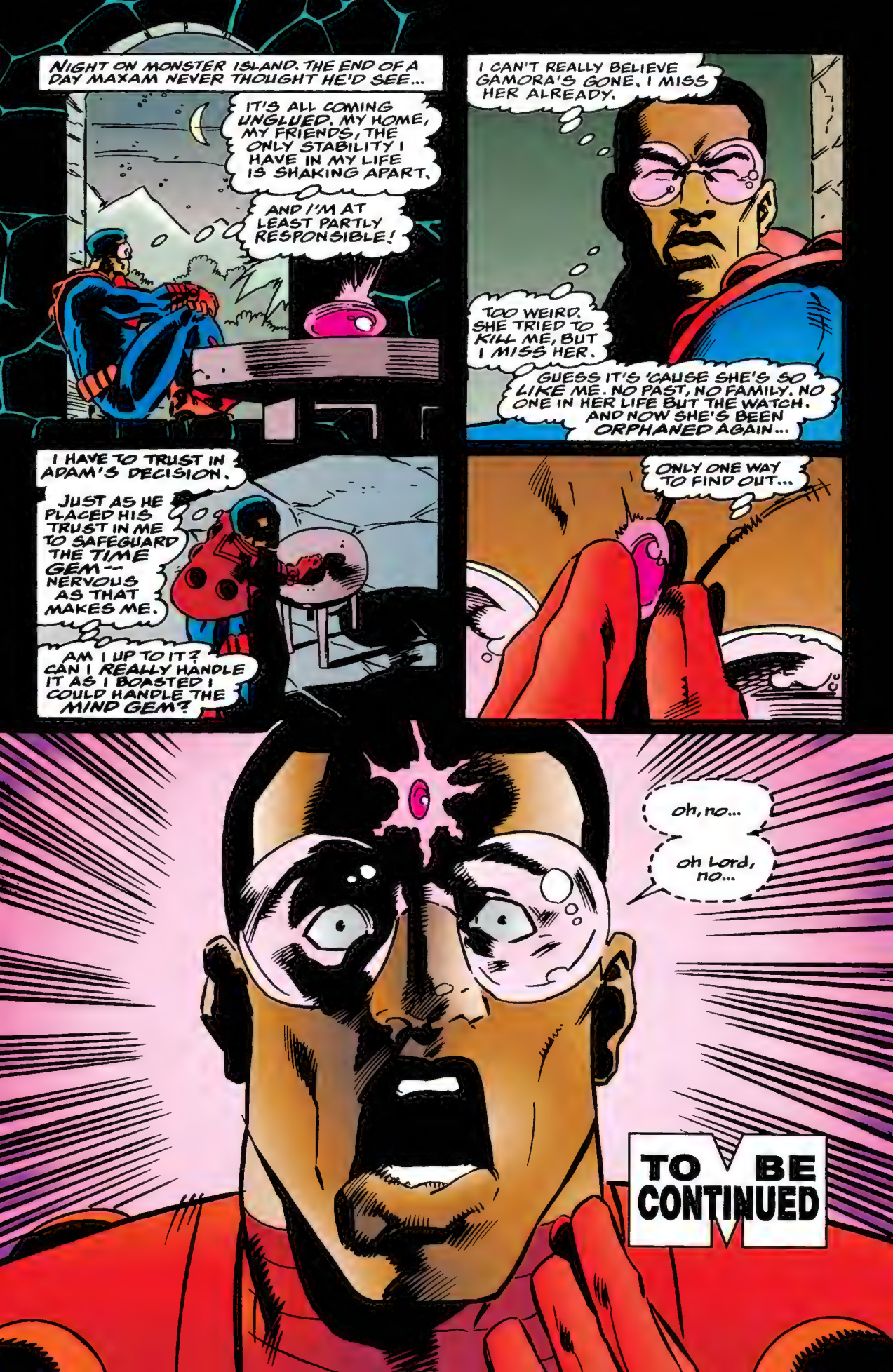
MONSTER ISLAND...
NOOO!
INNER PAIN EXPLODES INTO A BARELY FOCUSED BURST OF TELEKINETIC ENERGY...
A MIND-STORM OF PAVING STONES, MORTAR DUST AND ANGUISH...

MOONDRAGON! MOONDRAGON! CAN YOU HEAR ME?! STOP THIS!
SOMEONE MAY BE INJURED!
NOT ME, CHIEF! LATER!
UUUHHH...
MOONGIRL...
MOON-DRAGON?
YES, ADAM. I AM SHAKEN, BUT SOUND...
stay away... stay 'way... stay 'way... from me... stay 'way...

PIP!
RIGHT HERE, BOSS! BEHIND YOU ALL THE WAY!
OF COURSE. PLEASE TAKE DRAX BACK TO HIS ROOM TO REST.
I LIVE TO SERVE.
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
I'M NOT SURE I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW.
HUH?! JUST WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
I DEPEND ON YOU TO BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY, GAMORA.
ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF CRISIS.
YET TONIGHT, YOU ATTACKED A TRUSTED MEMBER OF THE WATCH.
TRUSTED MEMBER!?!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THIS GUY IS... AND YOU'RE TAKING HIS SIDE OVER MINE?
"SIDES"? I TAKE NO "SIDES"...
I MERELY ASSESS WHO IS RIGHT FOR THIS TEAM--AND WHO IS WRONG.

HOLD ON, MISTER! YOU CAN'T PULL THIS GARBAGE WITH ME!
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SO REMOTE, SO DETACHED FROM THE PASSIONS WE "COMMON FOLK" HAVE, THAT DOES NOT MAKE YOU PERFECT!
I NEVER CLAIMED MY JUDGMENT WAS INFALLIBLE--
--BUT IT IS MY OWN AND I MUST RELY ON IT.
THEN BASE YOUR JUDGMENT ON EXPERIENCE. OUR EXPERIENCE. THINK OF ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, ALL THE YEARS WE SPENT IN SOUL WORLD TOGETHER!
DOESN'T ALL THAT COUNT FOR...
...SOMETHING?
I HAVE CHANGED CONSIDERABLY SINCE THAT TIME.
MUCH HAS CHANGED. IF YOU ARE UNABLE... OR UNWILLING TO ADAPT...
SAY IT!! GO ON-- SAY IT!

I'LL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE, ADAM.
I QUIT!
GAMORA. THE GEM.
Oh, RIGHT, YOUR STINKING GEM!
TAKE IT! TAKE IT AND CHOKE ON IT, YOU COLD-BLOODED FREAK!
ANOTHER DAWN WON'T SEE ME ON THIS TRAITOR-INFESTED ROCK!!
AND YOU!! YOU JUST BETTER PRAY OUR PATHS DON'T CROSS AGAIN--EVER!!


NIGHT ON MONSTER ISLAND. THE END OF A DAY MAXAM NEVER THOUGHT HE'D SEE...
IT'S ALL COMING UNGLUED. MY HOME, MY FRIENDS, THE ONLY STABILITY I HAVE IN MY LIFE IS SHAKING APART.
AND I'M AT LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE!
I CAN'T REALLY BELIEVE GAMORA'S GONE. I MISS HER ALREADY.
TOO WEIRD. SHE TRIED TO KILL ME, BUT I MISS HER.
GUESS IT'S 'CAUSE SHE'S SO LIKE ME. NO PAST, NO FAMILY, NO ONE IN HER LIFE BUT THE WATCH. AND NOW SHE'S BEEN ORPHANED AGAIN...
I HAVE TO TRUST IN ADAM'S DECISION.
JUST AS HE PLACED HIS TRUST IN ME TO SAFEGUARD THE TIME GEM-- NERVOUS AS THAT MAKES ME.
AM I UP TO IT? CAN I REALLY HANDLE IT AS I BOASTED I COULD HANDLE THE MIND GEM?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...
OH, NO...
OH LORD, NO...
TO BE CONTINUED

MARVEL COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
41
JUN
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
MAD MAXAM!™

JOHN ARCUDI STORY · MIKE GUSTOVICH PENCILS · KEITH WILLIAMS INKS · IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS · JACK MORELLI LETTERS · MARK GRUENWALD CHIEF

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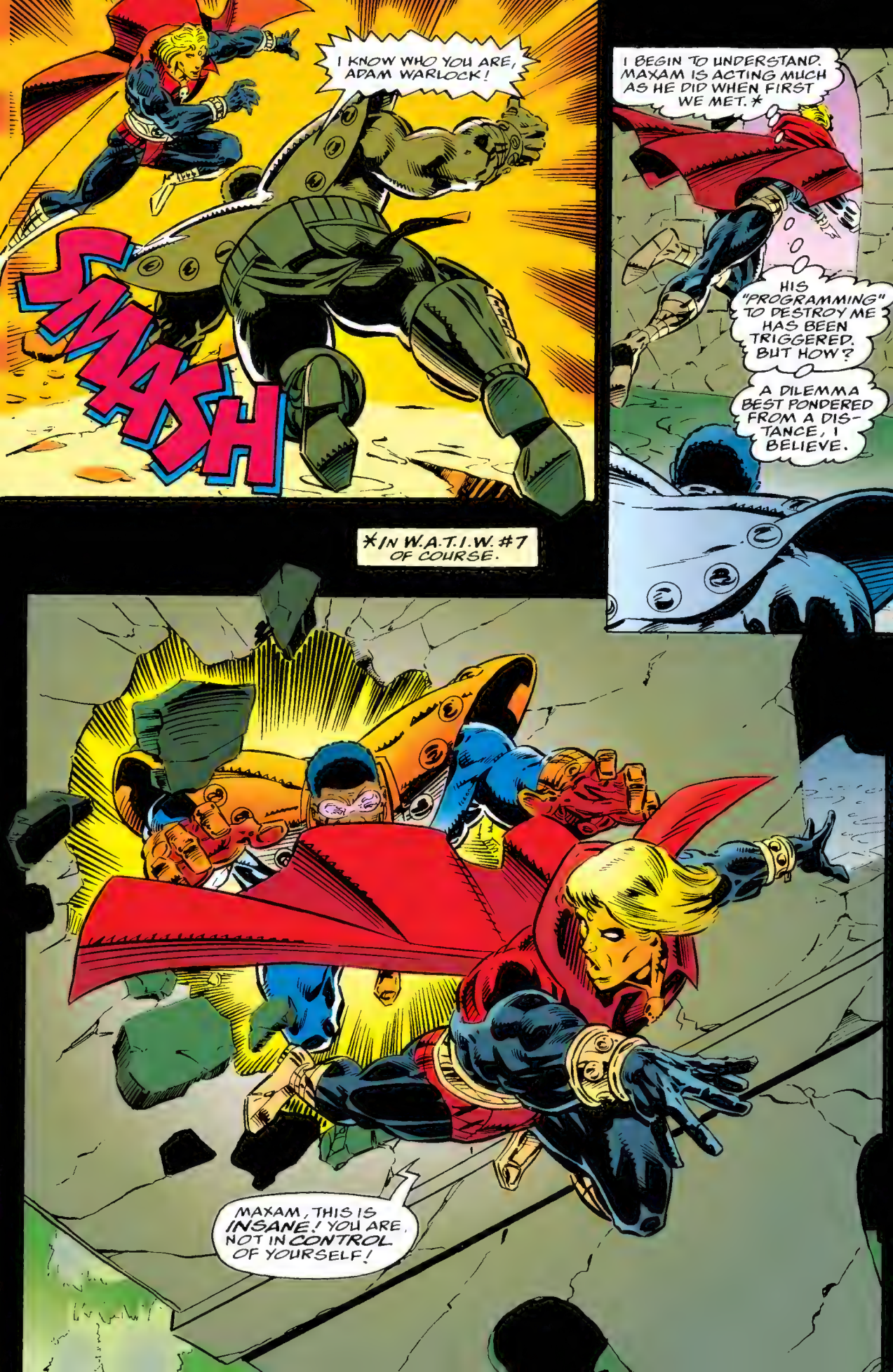
=Yawn!=
Yeesh, I can't remember the last time I saw a sunrise. Don't think it was even on this planet.
DON'T KNOW WHY YOU GOTTA GO SO EARLY. IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S GONNA TAKE ME MORE'N A SECOND TO GET YOU WHERE YOU'RE GOIN'!
BECAUSE I CAN'T STAND BEING HERE, PIP. I WANT TO BE FAR, FAR AWAY FROM THIS PLACE. FAR FROM THAT DIRT-BAG MAXAM!
and far from Adam.
YEAH. LIKE YOU REALLY WANT TO GET AWAY FROM ADAM. PLEASE.
AFTER WHAT HE DID LAST NIGHT, CHOOSING MAXAM AS AN ALLY OVER ME, I WOULDN'T STAY HERE IF HE BEGGED ME.
NOT EVEN IF HE BEGGED YOU, HUH?
OH, I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU BELIEVE. JUST GET ME OUT OF HERE!

AWW, LOOK, TOOTS, I KNOW I CAN ACT LIKE A JERK SOME-- MOST OF THE TIME, BUT YOU, ME, AND ADAM, WE GO BACK YEARS.
WE DID TIME TOGETHER BACK ON SOUL-WORLD. I GUESS I PROBABLY KNOW YOU BETTER'N JUST ABOUT ANYONE IN THE UNIVERSE.
SO YOU'RE SAYING I CAN'T FOOL YOU, IS THAT IT?
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, I DON'T WANT US TO GET BROKEN UP LIKE THIS.
I'M SAYING I'LL MISS YOU!
YOU REALLY ARE A GOOD FRIEND.
I'LL MISS YOU, TOO.
YEAH, WELL-- GRAB YOUR BAG SO WE CAN SPLIT.
DON'T HAVE ALL MORNING, Y'KNOW.
"OKAY... LET'S GO."

"LISTEN UP, PIP. KEEP AN EYE ON MAXAM, OKAY?"
"SURE. SURE."
"I MEAN IT, PIP."
"I KNOW ADAM TRUSTS HIM--
"--BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND--
"--THAT HE'LL BE VERY SORRY HE EVER SAW THAT INFLATABLE FREAK!"
AH, GOOD MORNING, MAXAM. HOW ARE YOU, TODAY?
FORGIVE ME, ADAM...

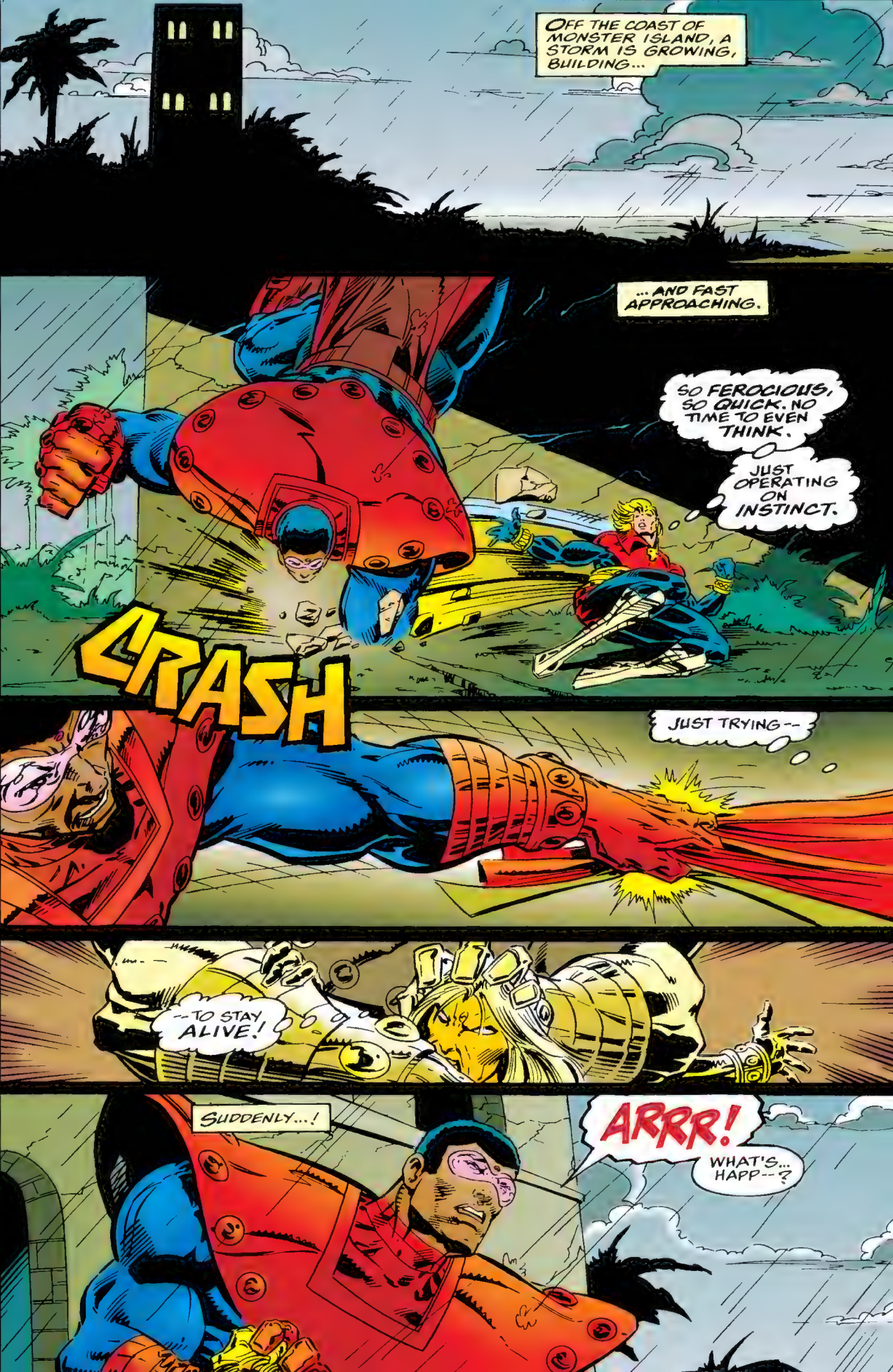
KRAK
SMASH

IN THE INFIRMARY...
HUH??
DRAX! I SENSE DISTRESS FROM ADAM! HE NEEDS YOUR HELP!
MR. ADAM IS STRONG! CAN TAKE CARE OF HISSELF!!
IT'S POOR MOONLADY WHO NEEDS DRAX'S HELP!
M-MAXAM, PLEASE. WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK HALF MAD!
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME??

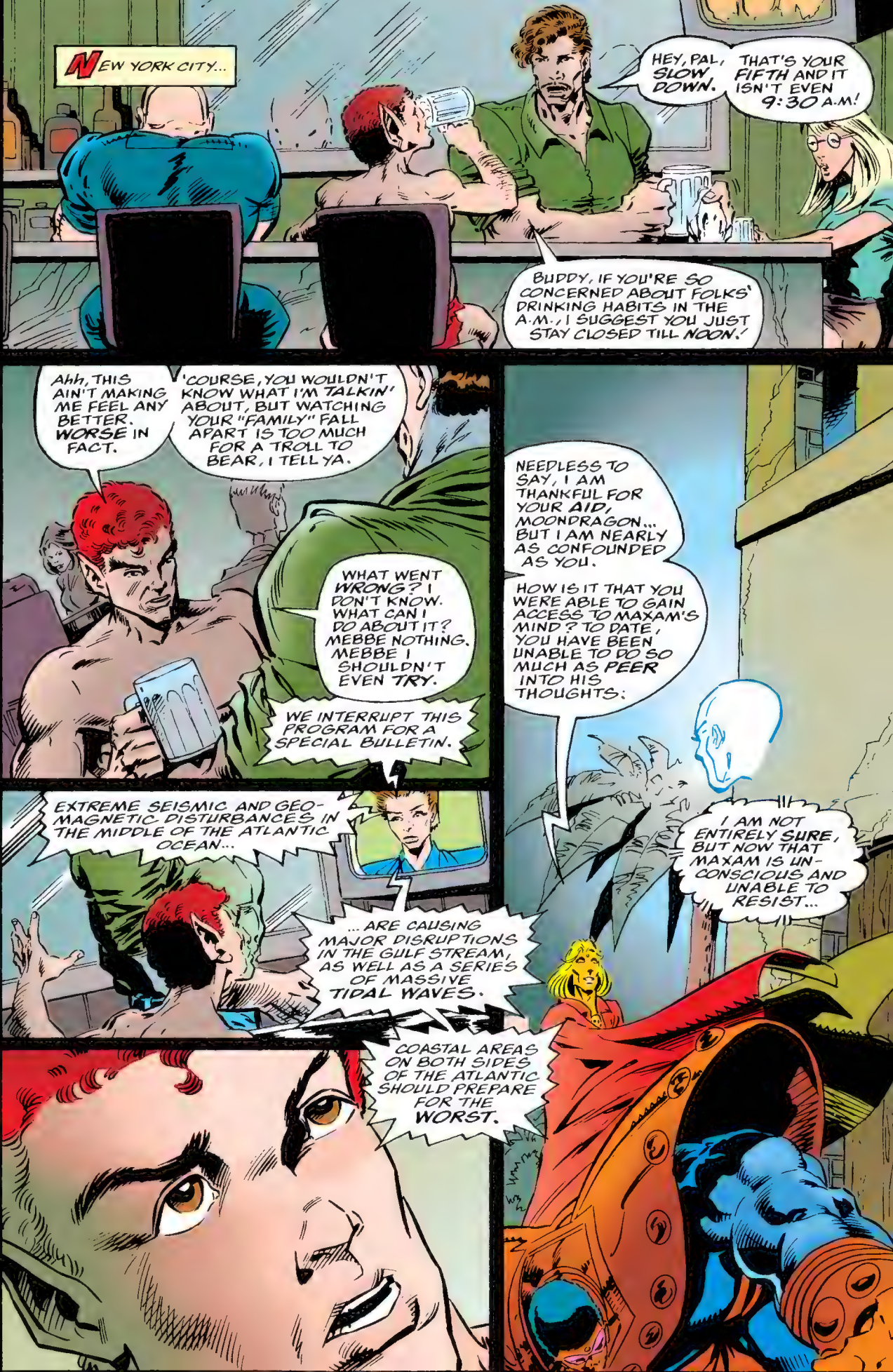

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, ADAM WARLOCK!
SMASH
I BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND. MAXAM IS ACTING MUCH AS HE DID WHEN FIRST WE MET. *
HIS "PROGRAMMING" TO DESTROY ME HAS BEEN TRIGGERED. BUT HOW?
A DILEMMA BEST PONDERED FROM A DISTANCE, I BELIEVE.
*IN W.A.T.I.W. #7 OF COURSE.
MAXAM, THIS IS INSANE! YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF YOURSELF!

OOOF!
PLEASE... MAXAM... WE HAVE BEEN ALLIES...
...FRIENDS...
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!

HEY, YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TAKE YOU INTO L.A. PROPER? I CAN DROP YOU OF AT FORCE WORKS' FRONT DOOR.
OR BETTER STILL, I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE AVENGERS IN NEW YORK WHERE IT'S A DECENT HOUR.
NO. THIS IS PERFECT. I WANT SOME TIME TO MYSELF. TO THINK.
WHEN I'M READY, I'LL WALK INTO TOWN AND SEE IRON MAN ABOUT MEMBERSHIP.
I JUST HOPE HE REMEMBERS ME.
TOOTS, YOU EVER LOOK IN A MIRROR LATELY?
IF THERE'S REALLY A MAN INSIDE THAT IRON, HE REMEMBERS YOU.
YESTERDAY THAT WOULD'VE BOTHERED ME, BUT TODAY... I DON'T KNOW...
I GUESS IT'S NICE KNOWING SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.
THAT'S ME ALL OVER, HONEY.
SO LONG, GORGEOUS.
so long... so long...


OFF THE COAST OF MONSTER ISLAND, A STORM IS GROWING, BUILDING...
...AND FAST APPROACHING.
SO FEROCIOUS, SO QUICK. NO TIME TO EVEN THINK.
JUST OPERATING ON INSTINCT.
CRASH
JUST TRYING--
--TO STAY ALIVE!
SUDDENLY...!
ARRR!
WHAT'S... HAPP--?

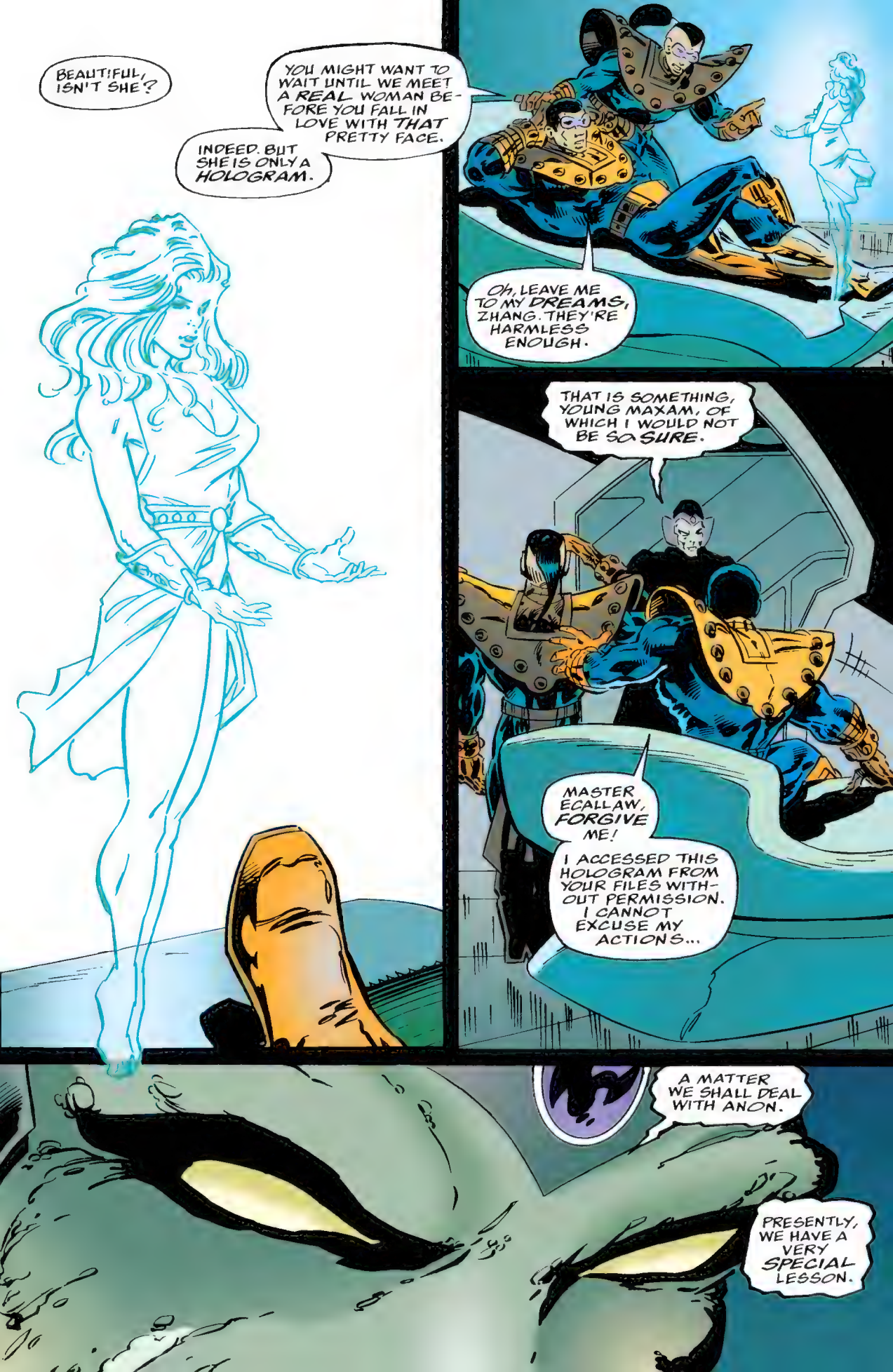
Y-YOU'RE KILLING ME!
GET OUT OF MY MIND!!
GET OOUUTT!
CAN'T BE CERTAIN WHAT HAS PRESENTED ME WITH THIS OPPORTUNITY...
BUT I SHALL EXPLOIT IT TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITIES WITH A KARMIC BLAST!
ADAM, YOU NEVER CEASE TO CONFOUND ME.
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST DO THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE?!


NEW YORK CITY...
HEY, PAL, SLOW DOWN.
THAT'S YOUR FIFTH AND IT ISN'T EVEN 9:30 A.M.!
BUDDY, IF YOU'RE SO CONCERNED ABOUT FOLKS' DRINKING HABITS IN THE A.M., I SUGGEST YOU JUST STAY CLOSED TILL NOON.!
AHH, THIS AIN'T MAKING ME FEEL ANY BETTER. WORSE IN FACT.
'COURSE, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT, BUT WATCHING YOUR "FAMILY" FALL APART IS TOO MUCH FOR A TROLL TO BEAR, I TELL YA.
WHAT WENT WRONG? I DON'T KNOW. WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT? MEBBE NOTHING. MEBBE I SHOULDN'T EVEN TRY.
WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A SPECIAL BULLETIN.
EXTREME SEISMIC AND GEO-MAGNETIC DISTURBANCES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN...
... ARE CAUSING MAJOR DISRUPTIONS IN THE GULF STREAM, AS WELL AS A SERIES OF MASSIVE TIDAL WAVES.
COASTAL AREAS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC SHOULD PREPARE FOR THE WORST.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, I AM THANKFUL FOR YOUR AID, MOONDRAGON... BUT I AM NEARLY AS CONFOUNDED AS YOU.
HOW IS IT THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO GAIN ACCESS TO MAXAM'S MIND? TO DATE, YOU HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO MUCH AS PEER INTO HIS THOUGHTS.
I AM NOT ENTIRELY SURE, BUT NOW THAT MAXAM IS UN-CONSCIOUS AND UNABLE TO RESIST...

LET'S ATTEMPT TO DISCOVER WHAT FEEDS HIS PRESENT RAGE...
"I SEE MAXAM AS A CHILD--
HEY, C'MON, ZHANG! SPEED IT UP!
"--BUT I AM NOT LOOKING INTO THE PAST."
GEEZ! IT'S REALLY GAINING ON US!
OOFF!
MAX!
DON'T STOP! KEEP GOING!
SO THIS THING'LL KEEP GOING!

GOING, GOING...
GONE!
ALL RIIIIGHT! WAY TO GO!
GENTLEMEN! YOU ARE NOT PLAYING GAMES OUT HERE.
YES, MASTER ECALLAW.
NEVERTHELESS, YOU PERFORMED ABOVE ANTICIPATED LEVELS.
WOULD THAT I COULD TAKE A MOMENT TO PROPERLY COMMEND THIS SUCCESS--
--BUT IT IS TIME FOR YOUR OTHER LESSONS...

STOP YOUR FURTIVE WHISPER. YOU KNOW I WELCOME CURIOSITY.
Psst... aren't you going to ask him?
Huh? You said YOU were going to ask him.
NO. YOU said that. Now go on. Ask him!
WELL, WE WERE WONDERING, I MEAN, SINCE THE HISTORY LESSONS STARTED, AND SOME OTHER THINGS, TOO...
OUT WITH IT.
PEOPLE. WHERE ARE ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE?
...SIR.
?
COME. WE ARE RUNNING LATE.


BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T SHE?
YOU MIGHT WANT TO WAIT UNTIL WE MEET A REAL WOMAN BEFORE YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH THAT PRETTY FACE.
INDEED. BUT SHE IS ONLY A HOLOGRAM.
OH, LEAVE ME TO MY DREAMS, ZHANG. THEY'RE HARMLESS ENOUGH.
THAT IS SOMETHING, YOUNG MAXAM, OF WHICH I WOULD NOT BE SO SURE.
MASTER ECALLAW, FORGIVE ME!
I ACCESSED THIS HOLOGRAM FROM YOUR FILES WITHOUT PERMISSION. I CANNOT EXCUSE MY ACTIONS...
A MATTER WE SHALL DEAL WITH ANON.
PRESENTLY, WE HAVE A VERY SPECIAL LESSON.

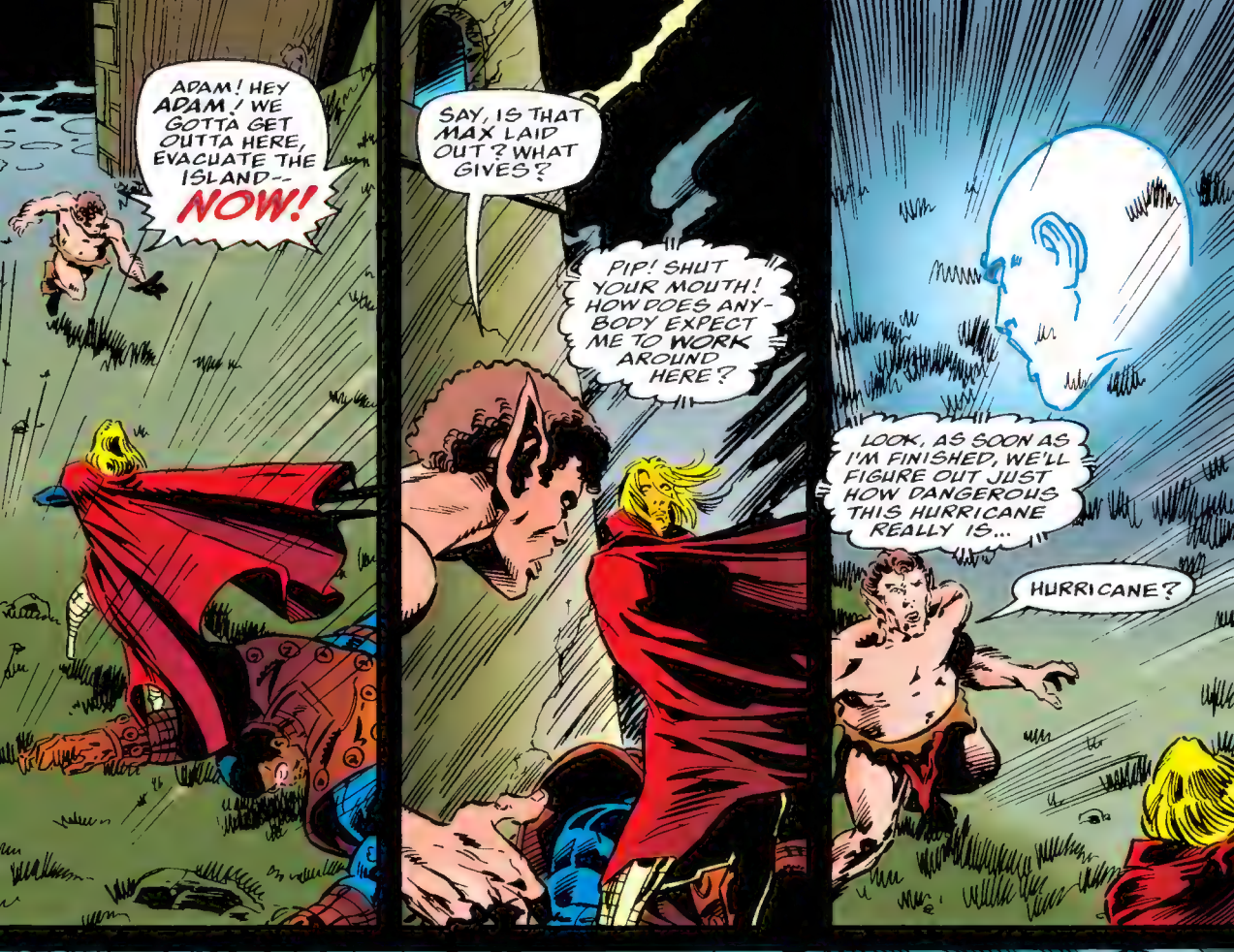
ALL... EVERY-ONE..?
EVERYONE.
BUT THAT'S JUST HERE, RIGHT? THE REST OF THE PLANET, AND OTHER PLANETS IN THE INTERGALACTIC ALLIANCE...
THE INTERGALACTIC ALLIANCE WAS DESTROYED, ALONG WITH EARTH, ALMOST A CENTURY AGO. A DETAIL I'VE OMITTED FROM YOUR TEACHINGS.
THOSE THAT SURVIVED CAME HERE, MOSTLY SICK AND UNABLE TO BEAR CHILDREN.
YOU TWO ARE MORE THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR.
HOPED FOR?! WHAT HOPE IS THERE NOW?!?

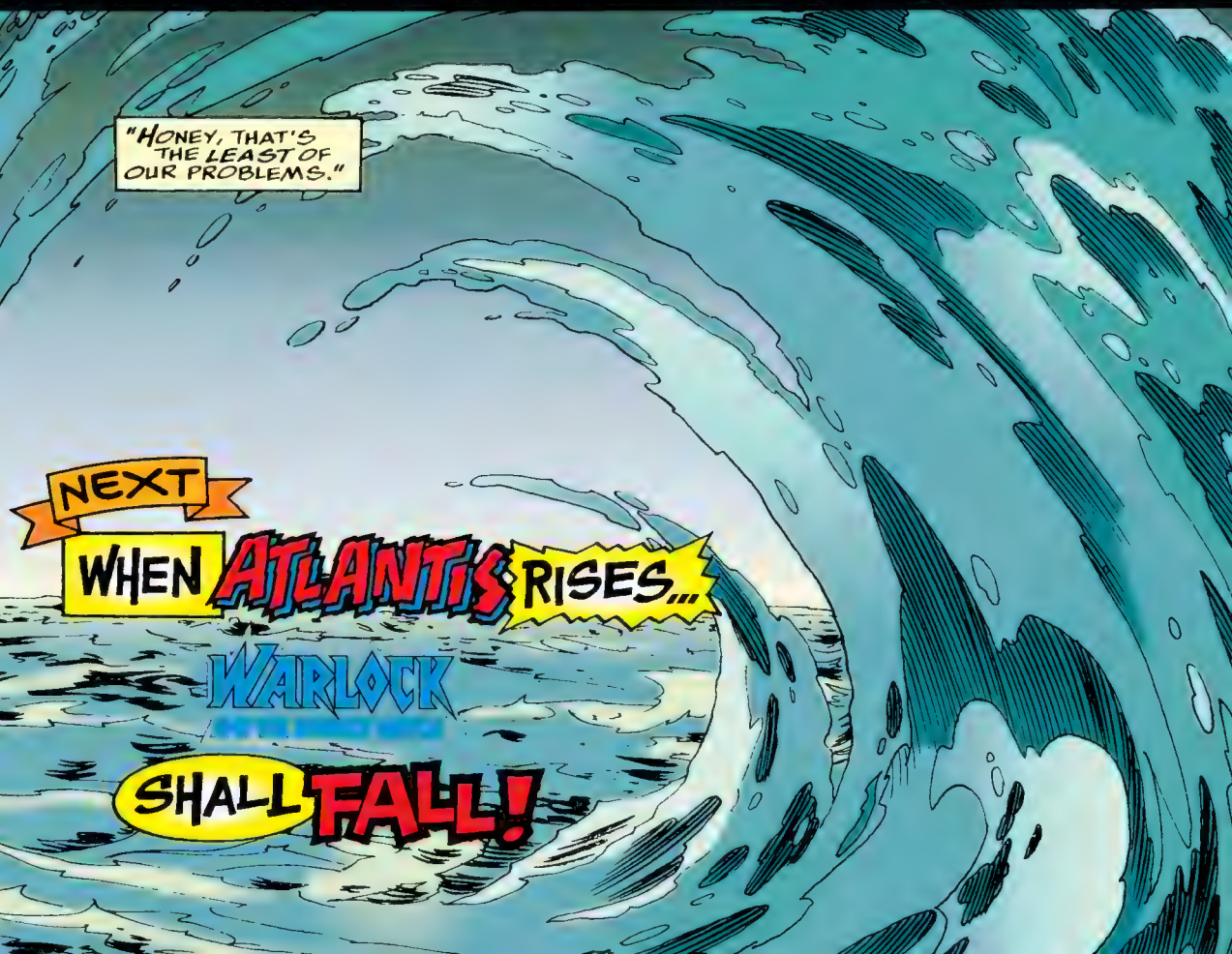
THIS IS THE MAGUS; SLAYER OF WORLDS, DESTROYER OF GALAXIES, ENEMY OF ALL LIFE.
SHOULD MY TIME DISPLACEMENT UNIT WORK, SHOULD I BE SUCCESSFUL IN SENDING ONE OF YOU BACK--HE WILL BE YOUR FIRST TARGET.
ONE OF US?!
HIS POWER IS GREAT, TOO GREAT EVEN FOR YOUR ENHANCED ABILITIES, BUT--
THIS IS THE MAGUS IN HIS LARVAL STAGE--ADAM WARLOCK.
KILL THIS MAN AND YOU SHALL SAVE THE UNIVERSE...
...OR START TO.
I UNDERSTAND NOW. AS A TRAVELER FROM THE DISTANT FUTURE, MAXAM IS TRULY A DISPLACED POCKET OF TIME.
THE TIME GEM, THEREFORE, SOMEHOW HAS OPENED A PORTAL THROUGH HIS MENTAL DEFENSES.
CONVENIENT, I SUPPOSE, IN ENHANCING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF MAXAM'S MOTIVES... BUT HARDLY HELPFUL.

WE NOW SEE THAT NOTHING MAY TURN HIM FROM HIS MISSION TO KILL ME, SHORT OF HIS OWN DEATH.
BUT HIS VISION OF THE REALITY HE'S FROM, THE CRYPTIC WORDS OF THE BADOON... ALL POINT TOWARD ONE INEVITABILITY...
IF I KILL, OR EVEN STOP MAXAM, I COULD DOOM THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!
DAWN IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA...
MY SECOND SUNRISE TODAY. IT'S GOT TO BE A GOOD SIGN RIGHT...?
A NEW START IN A NEW PLACE, ALONE UNDER A NEW SUN. I'M TOUGH, I CAN DO IT.
ONLY THAT'S NOT MY SUN... AND THIS ISN'T MY WORLD.
MY WORLD WAS DESTROYED LONG AGO, AND NOWHERE HAS REALLY BEEN HOME SINCE.

EXCEPT INSIDE THE SOUL GEM.
I WAS HAPPY THERE. WE WERE ALL HAPPY.
THOSE WERE THE BEST TIMES... AND NOW THEY'RE ALL BEHIND ME.
PIP WAS RIGHT. NOBODY IN THE UNIVERSE UNDERSTANDS ME BETTER THAN HE...
...AND ADAM.
NO ONE, GAMORA? IF THAT WERE TRUE, THEN WHY WOULD THEY ABANDON YOU?
AND WHY AM I HERE TO OFFER COMFORT ??

MONSTER ISLAND...
ADAM?!
MAX?! MAXAM?!
DRAX? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHERE IS EVERBODY?
DRAX HEARD LOTS OF SMASHING NOISES OUTSIDE. PIP SHOULD GO THERE. LEAVE DRAX ALONE.
"SMASHING NOISES"?
MOONDRAGON, I HAVE TO THINK THIS STRATEGY, WHATEVER IT IS, COULD BE BETTER PLANNED BY A WARM FIRE THAN OUT HERE IN THIS MONSOON.
BE QUIET, WILL YOU?!
A MINUTE AGO, YOU WERE DESPERATE FOR A SOLUTION TO THIS MAXAM DILEMMA, AND NOW YOU WON'T LET ME CONCENTRATE LONG ENOUGH TO EFFECT ONE.


ADAM! HEY ADAM! WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE, EVACUATE THE ISLAND-- NOW!
SAY, IS THAT MAX LAID OUT? WHAT GIVES?
PIP! SHUT YOUR MOUTH! HOW DOES ANY-BODY EXPECT ME TO WORK AROUND HERE?
LOOK, AS SOON AS I'M FINISHED, WE'LL FIGURE OUT JUST HOW DANGEROUS THIS HURRICANE REALLY IS...
HURRICANE?


"HONEY, THAT'S THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS."
NEXT
WHEN ATLANTIS RISES...
WARLOCK
SHALL FALL!

MARVEL COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
WARLOCK
AND THE INFINITY WATCH
42
JUL
THE WATCH IS BROKEN

CHICAGO PRESBYTERIAN EMERGENCY ROOM, EARLY EVENING...
IT'S QUIET NOW, BUT PEOPLE HERE KNOW BETTER THAN TO LET THEIR GUARD DOWN.
THEY KNOW THAT EVERY NIGHT, THEY'LL FACE LIFE AND DEATH SITUATIONS...
...AND THEY SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD TO BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE.
LOOK ALIVE, FOLKS! WE'VE GOT A RECOVERING MULTIPLE FRACTURE AND INTERNAL INJURY PATIENT HERE!
PREP AN INTENSIVE CARE BED-UNIT WITH LIFE-SIGNS MONITOR AND A STAND-BY RESPIRATOR!
AND GET READY WITH A GLUCOSE I.V. SOLUTION--
--STAT!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH

WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW!

DEEP BELOW MONSTER ISLAND...

YES, YES, YES. I'M WELL AWARE OF THE ATLANTIS SITUATION AND THE IMPENDING TIDAL WAVE.

WHY DO YOU THINK I'M HERDING ALL THE CREATURES DOWN TO THE LOWER LEVELS?

CERTAINLY, I AM GRATEFUL FOR OUR ALLIANCE, ADAM WARLOCK, BUT IN CASES OF ISLAND SECURITY, I'D MUCH RATHER RELY UPON MY OWN INTELLIGENCE!

WHICH IN THIS CASE ENTAILED MONITORING CNN, A PASTIME TOO MUNDANE FOR THE LIKES OF YOU AND YOUR GROUP, I'M SURE.

YOU ARE ALL, OF COURSE, QUITE WELCOME TO TAKE REFUGE DEEP IN SUBTERRANEA WITH US.

THANK YOU, BUT NO. I'VE MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO ATTEND TO.

MORE IMPORTANT ?!?

BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A MAJOR CATASTROPHE!

JOHN ARCUDI WRITER • MIKE GUSTOVICH PENCILS • KEITH WILLIAMS INKS
IAN LAUGHLIN COLORS • JACK MORELLI LETTERS • MARK GRUENWALD PIT BOSS

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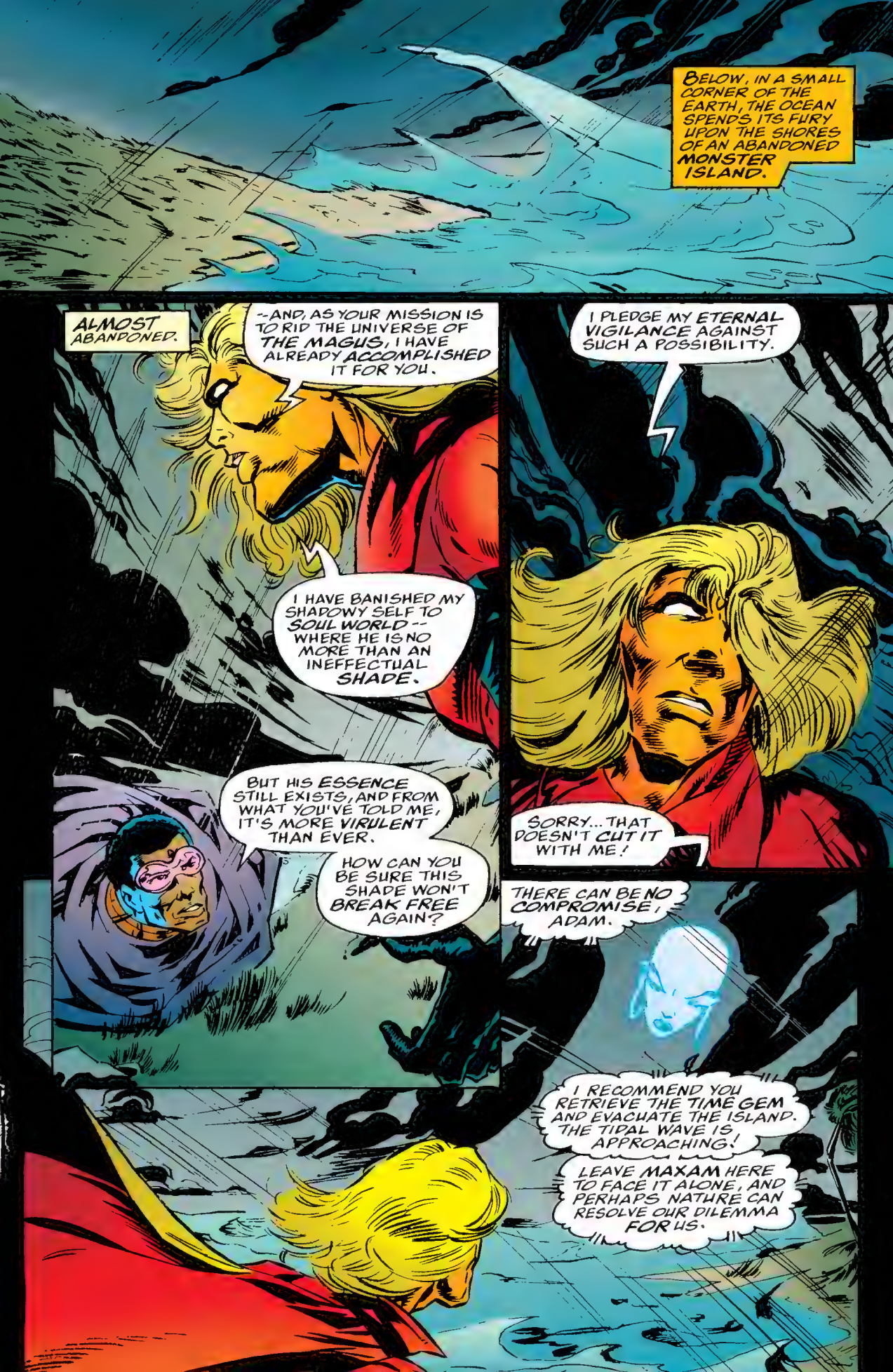
"INDEED WE ARE."
UHHHH...
GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, MAXAM.
THOSE ARE STEEL GIRDERS WRAPPED AROUND YOU, COURTESY OF MOONDRAGON'S TELEKINESIS, SO DON'T BOTHER TO STRUGGLE.
YOU KIDDING? DO YOU THINK AN IRON STRAITJACKET WILL HOLD ME?!
NO PRISON CAN KEEP ME FROM YOU, WARLOCK!
UHHH... SO WEAK...
NO. BUT MAYBE THE WARDEN CAN.

I'M SORRY WE HAD TO DO THIS TO YOU, MAXAM. TRULY SORRY.
MOONDRAGON IS EXERCISING A KIND OF TELEPATHIC SEDATION UPON YOU, TO KEEP YOU FROM USING YOUR POWERS.
I'M SURE IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE FELT IT WAS BEST.
I DON'T GET IT. HOW? SHE NEVER COULD DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE. SHE COULDN'T EVEN READ MY MIND!
SURELY YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, MUST REALIZE THAT NOTHING IS IMMUTABLE.
THE TIME GEM YOU NOW WEAR ALLOWED US ACCESS TO YOUR MOTIVES, YOUR MEMORIES.
WE HAVE SEEN YOUR PAST.
MY PAST?! I HAVE NO PAST!!
FOR ME THERE IS ONLY THE FUTURE!
AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU BE A PART OF IT!!

CHICAGO...
MR. PIP.
I MUST TELL YOU THAT THE SITUATION, AS IT STANDS, MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO TEND TO THE PATIENT'S NEEDS.
STOP QUIVERING, SAWBONES. I GOT THE CABBAGE RIGHT HERE.
IT'S NOT THAT.
THE PROBLEM IS THAT BIG MONSTER. HE WON'T LEAVE HER SIDE.
PAL, UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE IN THE BED NEXT TO THE LADY, YOU'D BETTER LEARN TO WORK AROUND THAT "MONSTER."
LOVE TO STAY AND CHAT, BUT I GOTTA HEAD HOME. SEE IF MY BOSS NEEDS ME.
NO! ADAM TOLD YOU TO STAY HERE UNTIL HE CALLED YOU!
HUH!
HEY! I THOUGHT YOU WERE BACK ON THE ISLAND!
I AM, PLANTED IN ADAM'S BRAIN WITH A MIND NODE--
ALLOWING THE REST OF MY CONSCIOUSNESS TO WANDER WHEREVER I LIKE!
"MIND NODE"?
MOONY, YOU'RE BEGINNING TO CREEP ME OUT.

NEAR EARTH...
...YOU THINK I'LL HELP YOU GET THE TIME GEM?
LOOK, YOU WERE LIKE A FATHER TO ME ONCE, BUT ANY TIES I HAD TO YOU WERE SEVERED LONG AGO.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M TALKING TO YOU. I DON'T BELONG HERE ANYMORE.
AND WHERE DO YOU BELONG? DOWN THERE?
THE LAST OF YOUR RACE AMONG A WORLD OF STRANGERS ??
ARGUABLY, YOU MIGHT HAVE FOUND YOUR NICHE BY THE SIDE OF ADAM WARLOCK, ANOTHER SINGULAR CREATURE.
BUT HE DOESN'T WANT YOU.
YEAH, WELL, THANKS FOR THE CURRENT EVENTS UPDATE--
--BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO GET MIXED UP WITH A MONSTER WHO ONCE TRIED TO DESTROY HALF THE UNIVERSE!

I... I HAVE MADE MISTAKES.
HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE MISTAKES...
BUT HE WHO CONTROLS TIME CAN ERASE HIS REGRETS.
I AM SINCERE, GAMORA. THERE IS MUCH ABOUT MYSELF I WISH TO CHANGE.
LET'S SUPPOSE I BELIEVE YOU...
ISN'T IT TRUE THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO USE THE REALITY AND TIME GEMS WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF THE OTHERS WOULD RESULT IN UTTER DISASTER?
SO IT HAS BEEN SAID. BUT THANOS HAS CHEATED THE COSMOS BEFORE, HAS HE NOT?
I CAN'T TRUST HIM, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, MAXAM HAS WHAT HE WANTS.
AND WHO COULD GET THAT TREACHEROUS CREEP OUT OF THE WAY BETTER THAN THANOS?
IT'S RISKY, BUT IF I DON'T TRY SOMETHING, MAXAM WILL KILL ADAM. I JUST KNOW IT.
LET ME ... THINK ABOUT IT. DROP ME OFF BELOW, AND I'LL LET YOU KNOW SOON.
THAT IS ALL I ASK.


BELOW, IN A SMALL CORNER OF THE EARTH, THE OCEAN SPENDS ITS FURY UPON THE SHORES OF AN ABANDONED MONSTER ISLAND.
ALMOST ABANDONED.
--AND, AS YOUR MISSION IS TO RID THE UNIVERSE OF THE MAGUS, I HAVE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IT FOR YOU.
I HAVE BANISHED MY SHADOWY SELF TO SOUL WORLD -- WHERE HE IS NO MORE THAN AN INEFFECTUAL SHADE.
BUT HIS ESSENCE STILL EXISTS, AND FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, IT'S MORE VIRULENT THAN EVER.
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE THIS SHADE WON'T BREAK FREE AGAIN?
I PLEDGE MY ETERNAL VIGILANCE AGAINST SUCH A POSSIBILITY.
SORRY... THAT DOESN'T CUT IT WITH ME!
THERE CAN BE NO COMPROMISE, ADAM.
I RECOMMEND YOU RETRIEVE THE TIME GEM AND EVACUATE THE ISLAND. THE TIDAL WAVE IS APPROACHING!
LEAVE MAXAM HERE TO FACE IT ALONE, AND PERHAPS NATURE CAN RESOLVE OUR DILEMMA FOR US.

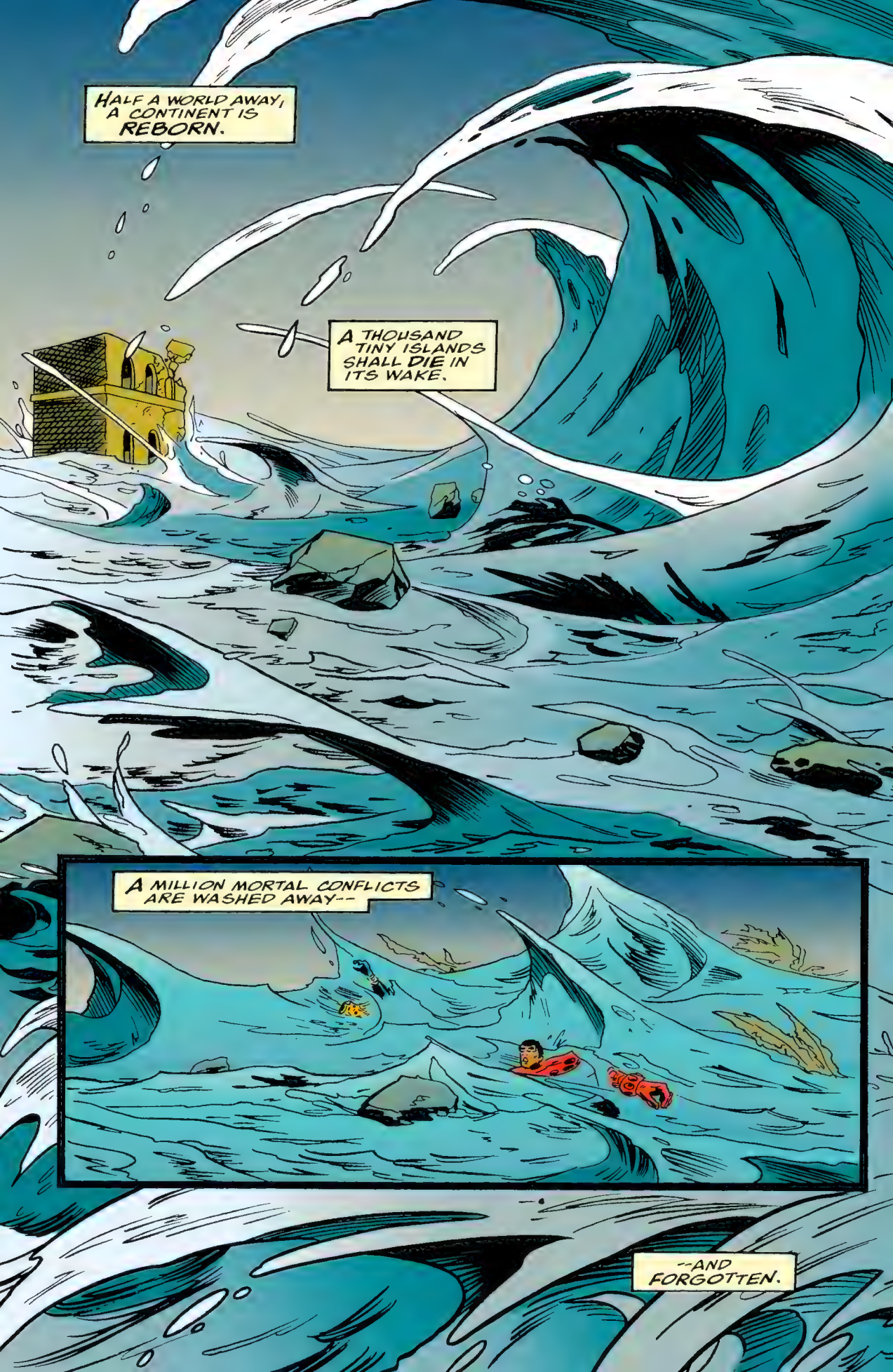
YOU'RE LEAVING ME HERE--
--TO DIE?
WHAT CHOICE HAVE WE, MAXAM?
PLAINLY FATE MUST DECIDE THIS MATTER.
AND FATE DOES--
--AS ONE BY ONE--
--WHEREVER THEY ARE--
--THE INFINITY GEMS--
--DISAPPEAR!

MOONDRAGON? MOONDRAGON?
THE GEMS, WHERE ARE THEY? WHAT TRANS-PIRES HERE?
DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT WITHOUT THAT TIME GEM ON MY HEAD, I'M NO LONGER UNDER MOON-DRAGON'S POWER--
--AND WITHOUT YOUR SOUL GEM YOU HAVEN'T GOT A PRAYER!

BUT THROUGH HIS TOWERING RAGE, MAXAM REGISTERS GENUINE ASTONISHMENT.
THE GOLDEN FIGURE FIGHTS QUITE CAPABLY AND NOT AT ALL AS ADAM WARLOCK SHOULD.
FOR EVERY BRUTAL BLOW STRUCK AGAINST HIM--

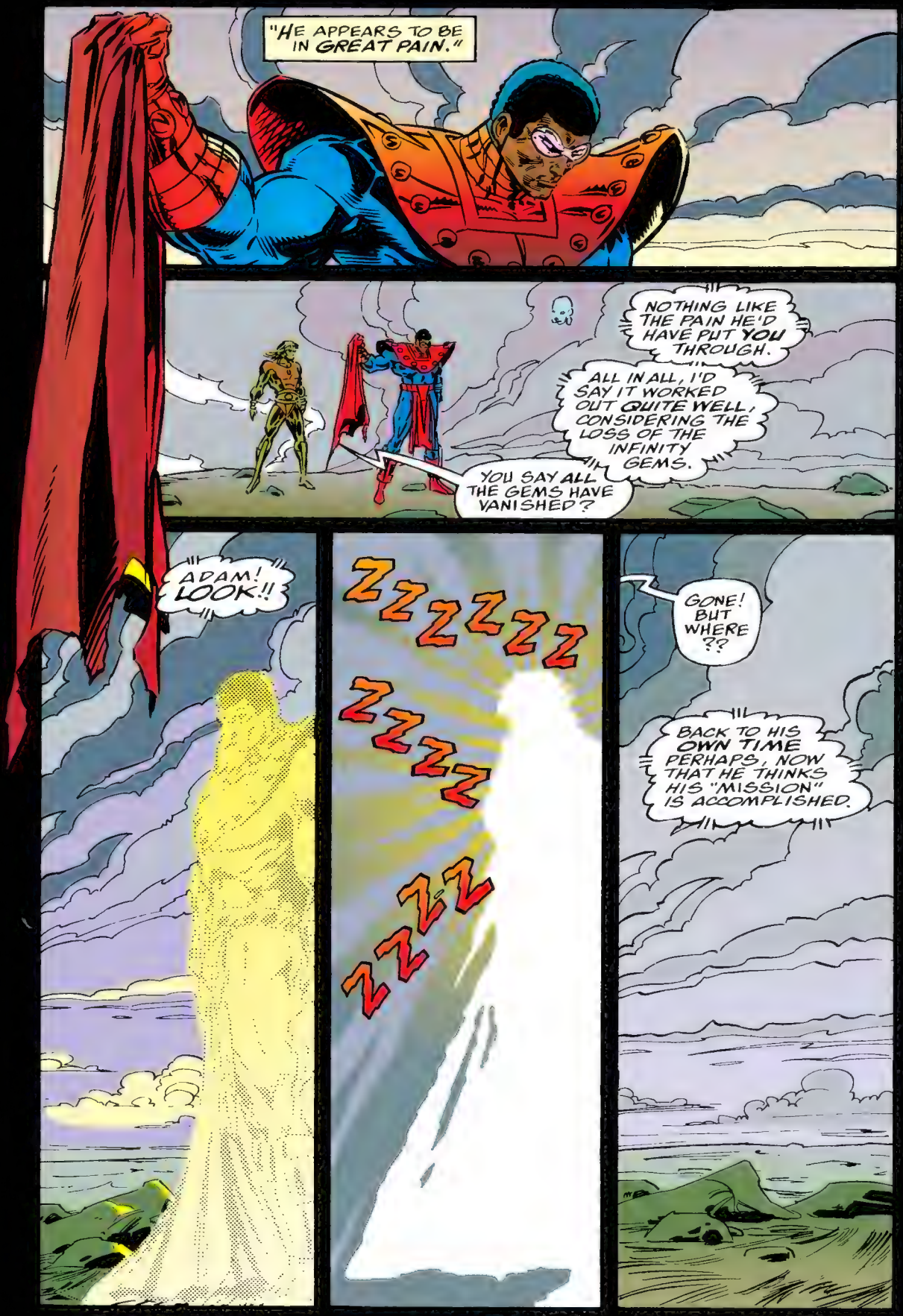
--HE RETALIATES IN KIND, WITH UNDIGNIFIED, ALMOST DESPERATE FEROCITY.
BUT DESPERATION IS NO MATCH FOR POWER!

AND, LIKE ALL THINGS ON EARTH--
HUH?
--POWER IS RELATIVE.

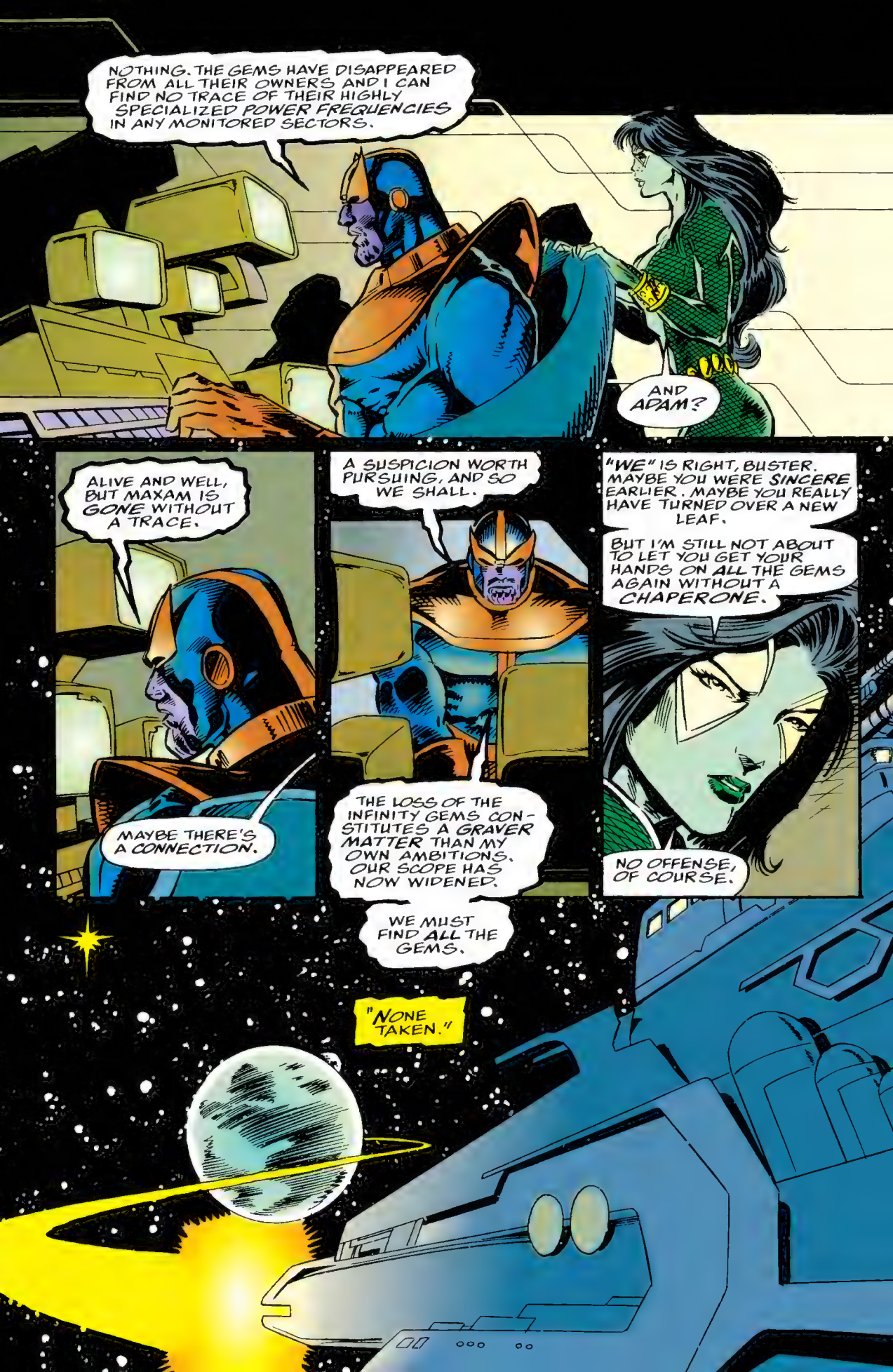

HALF A WORLD AWAY, A CONTINENT IS REBORN.
A THOUSAND TINY ISLANDS SHALL DIE IN ITS WAKE.
A MILLION MORTAL CONFLICTS ARE WASHED AWAY--
--AND FORGOTTEN.

ONLY MAXAM CANNOT FORGET.
NOT EVEN AFTER HIS RAGE HAS DRAINED AWAY WITH THE EBB OF THE SEA, HOURS LATER...
HOW CAN HE FORGET, WHEN BEFORE HIM LIES THE MAN WHO WILL NULLIFY THE FUTURE.
HE WHO WILL BECOME THE EVIL MAGUS.
THE SLAYER OF WORLDS--
--RAVAGER OF GALAXIES--
--ENEMY OF ALL LIFE!!
KR-AKK

Adam... can you hear me?
Is your soul still near?
you were my friend. I--I didn't want to do it. I had to...
CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

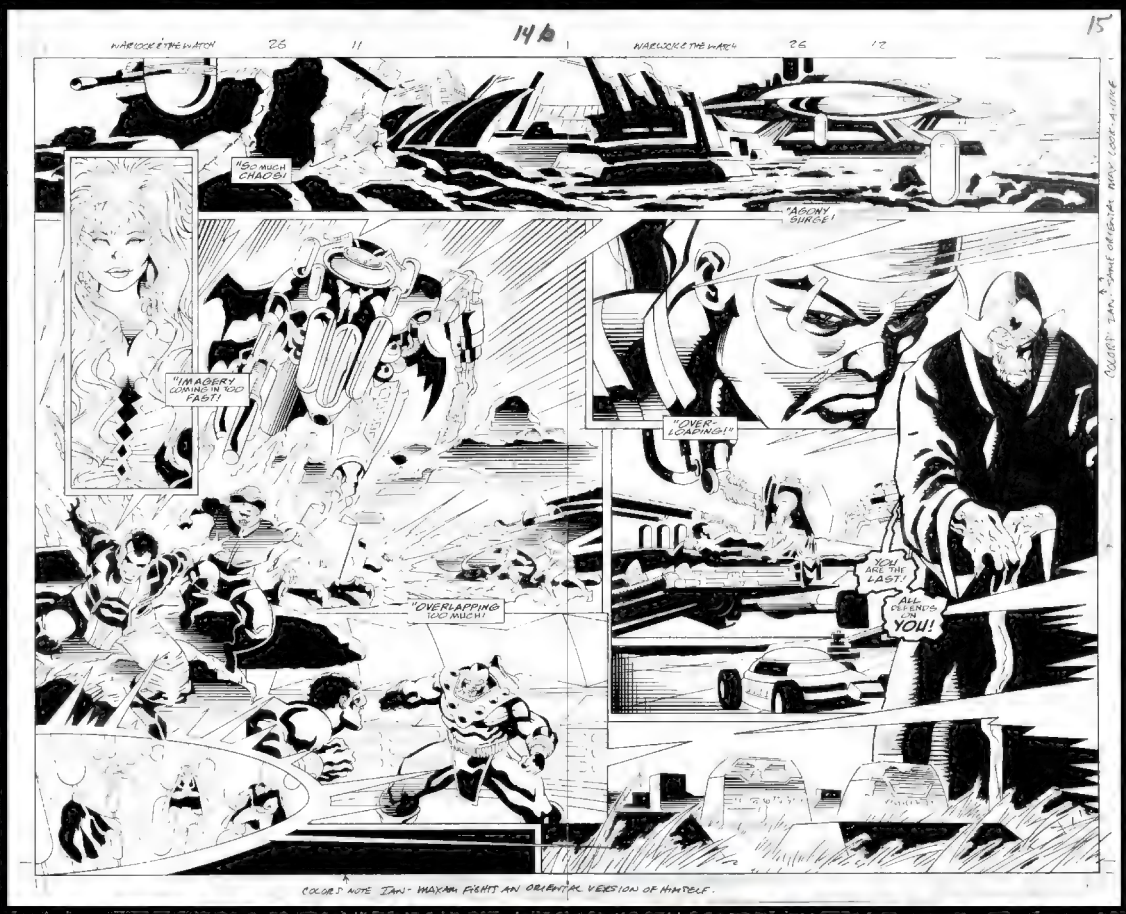

"HE APPEARS TO BE IN GREAT PAIN."
NOTHING LIKE THE PAIN HE'D HAVE PUT YOU THROUGH.
ALL IN ALL, I'D SAY IT WORKED OUT QUITE WELL, CONSIDERING THE LOSS OF THE INFINITY GEMS.
YOU SAY ALL THE GEMS HAVE VANISHED?
ADAM! LOOK!!
ZZZZZZ
ZZZZZ
ZZZZ
GONE! BUT WHERE ??
BACK TO HIS OWN TIME PERHAPS, NOW THAT HE THINKS HIS "MISSION" IS ACCOMPLISHED.

ABOUT THAT, YOU NEVER DID EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT IT WAS THAT YOU WERE DOING.
YOU PLANTED A NODE IN MAXAM'S BRAIN, YES? IS IT LIKE THE ONE YOU PLANTED IN MINE?
NOT QUITE. WHAT I PLACED IN MAXAM'S BRAIN WAS A PROGRAM THAT PLAYED OUT THE EXACT SCENARIO HE DESIRED...
TO HIM, IT WAS A VERY REAL BATTLE. "YOU" PUT UP QUITE A FIGHT. HAD I MADE IT TOO EASY, HE MIGHT HAVE GUESSED WHAT WAS HAPPENING.
SEEMS TO HAVE WORKED.
SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED SO QUICKLY.
YOUR INJURIES... GAMORA'S LEAVING THE GROUP... MAXAM... THE TIDAL WAVE... AND NOW THE GEMS.
THE GEMS.
ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME, ADAM. NOW SIT DOWN, AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL THAT I KNOW.

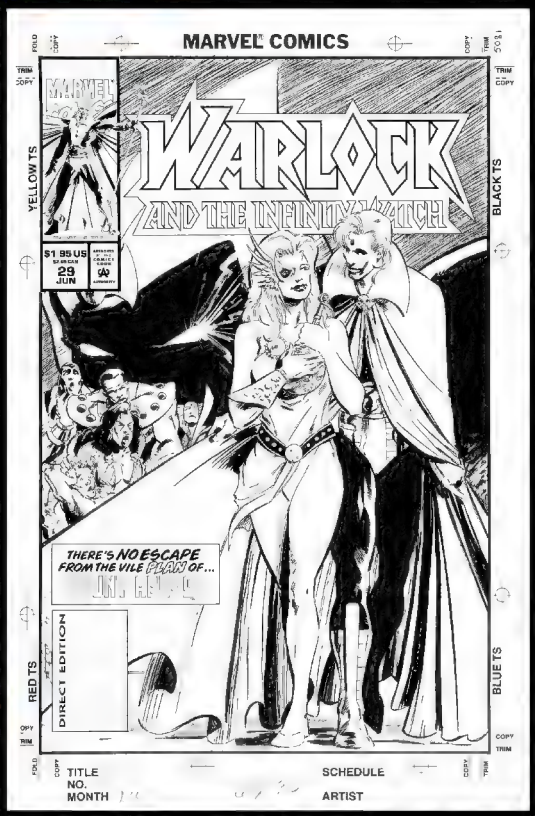

NOTHING. THE GEMS HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM ALL THEIR OWNERS AND I CAN FIND NO TRACE OF THEIR HIGHLY SPECIALIZED POWER FREQUENCIES IN ANY MONITORED SECTORS.
AND ADAM?
ALIVE AND WELL, BUT MAXAM IS GONE WITHOUT A TRACE.
MAYBE THERE'S A CONNECTION.
A SUSPICION WORTH PURSUING, AND SO WE SHALL.
THE LOSS OF THE INFINITY GEMS CONSTITUTES A GRAVER MATTER THAN MY OWN AMBITIONS. OUR SCOPE HAS NOW WIDENED.
WE MUST FIND ALL THE GEMS.
"WE" IS RIGHT, BUSTER. MAYBE YOU WERE SINCERE EARLIER. MAYBE YOU REALLY HAVE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF.
BUT I'M STILL NOT ABOUT TO LET YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON ALL THE GEMS AGAIN WITHOUT A CHAPERONE.
NO OFFENSE, OF COURSE.
"NONE TAKEN."

gee, THAT'S TOO BAD ABOUT MAX. I WAS BEGINNING TO LIKE HIM.
BUT ONE THING I DON'T GET. THE VISION OF THE FUTURE GAMORA HAD--
WAS SEEN THROUGH THE TIME GEM.
WHEN I PLANTED THE PROGRAM IN MAXAM'S MIND, HE WAS WEARING THE TIME GEM. HIS SUBCONSCIOUS REGISTERED THE PROGRAM IMMEDIATELY AS FACT.
MY GUESS IS THE TIME GEM SAW THE IMAGE THROUGH MAXAM'S SUBCONSCIOUS AS REALITY. BUT THAT'S ONLY A GUESS.
A GOOD ONE, I'D SAY, SINCE THE PROGRAM WAS TO HAVE BEEN TRIGGERED IN MAXAM'S CONSCIOUS MIND AFTER ADAM REMOVED THE GEM FROM HIS FOREHEAD.
OR AFTER THE GEM DISAPPEARED, WHICHEVER CAME FIRST.
AND THEY DID ALL DISAPPEAR, RIGHT?
YES. ALL THE WATCH ARE WITHOUT THEIR GEMS, THOUGH I'VE NOT CHECKED ON THANOS.
WELL, I GUESS WE ALL KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FIRST, HUH?
NO, PIP. THIS SEARCH IS NOW BEYOND OUR LIMITED POWERS.

CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE THAT THIS BE ONE MAN'S QUEST.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, THE FATE OF THE GEMS RESTS WITH HIM.
THE END



***WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #26*, PAGES 11-12 ART**
BY TOM GRINDBERG & BOB ALMOND



WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #29
COVER ART BY PAT OLLIFFE

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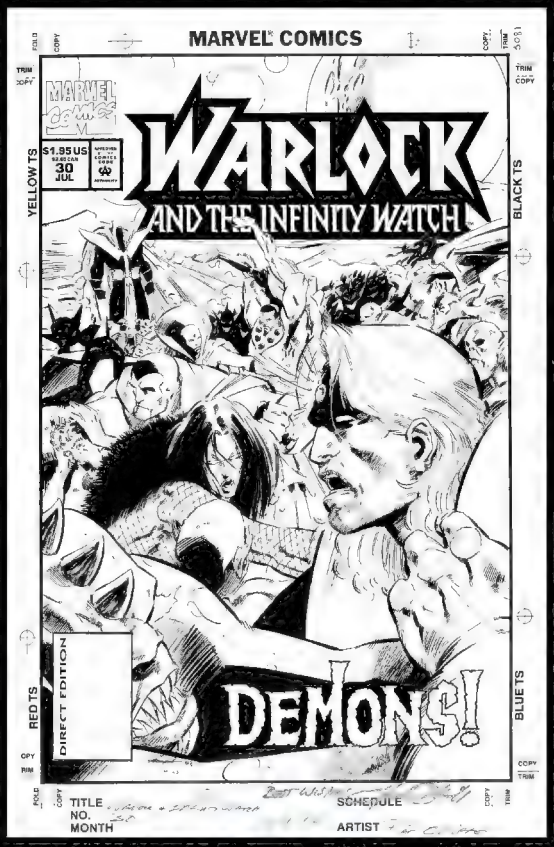

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #30 COVER ART
BY PAT OLLIFFE

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #30, PAGE 19 ART
BY PAT OLLIFFE, ART NICHOLS & BOB ALMOND

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #32
PAGE 1 ART BY PAT OLLIFFE & KEITH WILLIAMS

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WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #34 COVER ART
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WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #35, PAGE 4 ART
BY PAT OLLIFFE & BOB ALMOND

WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH #39
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WARLOCK AND THE INFINITY WATCH LETTERS-PAGE LOGO BY PAT OLLIFFE

ALTERNATE LETTERS-PAGE LOGO ART BY PAT OLLIFFE, FROM ISSUE #38

1994 TRADING-CARD ART BY MIKE MANLEY & PAUL MOUNTS, GREG & TIM HILDEBRANDT, AND TOM RANEY

Jim Starlin

THE INFINITY WATCH

Wish Upon a Star

Dearest Father,

I'm writing from a part of the galaxy where it is forever dark. Don't bother looking on your atlas of the stars, it's not mapped. Warlock-the-Holiest created the NightZone as a safe outpost for The Infinity Watch, Earth's military elite.

This will be my last mail. Thanos' Imperial Death Squad recently discovered the NightZone. Our captain— a brave soldier named Mar-Vell — told us to make peace with our maker.

I need you to do me a favor, Father. I've never before asked you for anything, but now I must.

Father ... I miss Martha more than you can imagine. She looked so beautiful on our wedding day. I carry an old picture of her taped to my dog tags. I also miss Jill and Karen. Are they beautiful like their mother? I wish I could have been there to see them born.

Funny how I write to you instead of my wife or twin daughters, isn't it? We were never really that close.

At 12:00 P.M. Earth time, we will launch a massive intergalactic attack upon Thanos. I will be dead no later than 12:01. Everyone knows it is a suicide mission.

This is the favor I need. At exactly 12:01, take Martha and the kids outside. Look near the belt of the Orion star constellation. Though the small star won't seem to flash, flicker, and die to Earthlings for another several light-years, the inevitable blinding flash to come will signify the last moments of my life.

Have them look at that star, and make a wish.

Thank you,

Pvt. Michael Keller

Pvt. Michael Keller
Earth Infantry

Colored by Christie Scheele & Heroic Age and Text by Buddy Scalera

MARVEL UNIVERSE: MILLENNIAL VISIONS RE-IMAGINED MARVEL CHARACTERS, INCLUDING THE INFINITY WATCH, IN CREATIVE NEW WAYS.

WRITER: BUDDY SCALERA • ARTIST: JIM STARLIN • COLORISTS: CHRISTIE SCHEELE & HEROIC AGE

MARVEL AGE #132 COMIC STRIP
BY FRED HEMBECK

THE UNCANNY EXPLOITS OF ADAM WARLOCK AND HIS INFINITY WATCH CONCLUDE!

Before the band breaks up and everyone goes their separate ways, there are plenty of adventures to be had — like a battle for Monster Island against the Avengers! There will be new love for Adam and heartache for Gamora! The Watch will face the Man-Beast's full fury, learn how Count Abyss traded his soul for power, and get caught in a subterranean war between Tyrannus and the Mole Man! The mysterious Strange targets the Infinity Gems, and the members of the Watch face execution for their sins at the hands of Zakaius! Will they escape that fate only to be brought down by one of their own? Time will tell before the Watch is stopped!

Collecting *Warlock Chronicles #6* and *Warlock and the Infinity Watch #26-42* — written by Jim Starlin, Richard Ashford, John Arcudi and Evan Skolnick; and illustrated by Kris Renkewitz, Tom Grindberg, Jeff Moore, Pat Olliffe, Lee Sullivan and Mike Gustovich.

MARVEL

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